

## Stool Specimens

### *Stool Specimens*

Your physician has asked you to bring a stool specimen to the laboratory. Please follow these directions, as we would like the tests to be as accurate as possible.

1. Use a clean, dry container with a leak proof lid.
2. We like to have at least a walnut-sized specimen.
3. The specimen is to be received at the lab within **one hour** after collection, if possible. If unable, the specimen may be refrigerated no longer than 24 hours.
4. If multiple specimens are requested, each specimen must be collected a minimum of **24 hours** apart.
5. The stool specimen cannot come in contact with water or urine, and toilet tissue should not be included in the specimen.
6. If your child is in diapers and stools are watery, use a disposable diaper turned inside out during collection, or place a piece of plastic wrap inside the diaper and then transfer the specimen to a clean container before it is sent to the lab.
7. Specimen for Ova and Parasites (O&P), may be placed in a Pare-Pak preservative kit provided by the laboratory or your clinician. Follow the enclosed instructions as carefully as possible. The kit can remain at room temperature before and after collection, and delivered to the lab at any time.
8. Label the container with your first and last name, date of birth, and the date and time of collection.