



## **Patient Instruction Sheet for Stool Collection**

### **Instructions for collecting a stool specimen (bacterial pathogens)**

1. Collect the stool in a clean dry container or place a piece of saran wrap over the toilet bowl between the seat and the base.
2. Defecate into the clean container or onto the saran wrap.
3. Wear gloves to transfer stool from source to ETM vial.
4. Unscrew the red cap from the plastic vial (ETM) with the red liquid media.
5. If stool is liquid, carefully pour to the fill line. If stool is solid use the paddle on the ETM vial lid to scoop a walnut size amount into the vial. Do not overfill.
6. Screw the cap tightly back onto the plastic vial. Shake sample thoroughly until the sample is well mixed with the liquid in the vial. Wrap parafilm (if provided) around the cap by gently stretching the parafilm as you wrap it.
7. Clearly label specimen container(s) with patient name, collection date, and date of birth.

### **Instructions for collecting a stool specimen (parasitic pathogens)**

From the remaining stool in the container or on the saran wrap, place enough stool into the plastic vials with yellow and blue tops (Ova and Parasite Kit) to raise the liquid level to the appropriate line in each container. Mix the contents of the tube with the spoon, then twist the cap closed and shake the tube vigorously until the contents are well mixed. Clearly label specimen containers as above.

### **Instructions for collecting a bulk stool specimen for norovirus**

From the remaining stool in the container or on the saran wrap, place a good amount of stool in the bulk specimen container (often a stool cup) to fill at least 1/3 of the container. Screw the lid on tightly and seal around the lid with parafilm (if provided). Clearly label specimen containers as above.

### **When stool collection is completed for the above test(s):**

1. Wrap any remaining stool in the saran wrap and dispose in the trash.
2. Remove gloves, dispose in trash.
3. Wash hands well.