Hygienic Laboratory

The University of Iowa

Specimen Collection and Shipping Instructions

Ova and Parasite Stool Collection

Submission Requirements

•The kit provided by UHL contains two vials, one containing PVA, and the other, Formalin.

WARNING! DO NOT DRINK. THESE LIQUIDS ARE POISONOUS.
If either liquid is accidentally ingested, call the local poison control center or your physician IMMEDIATELY. Call the University of Iowa Poison Control Center day or night at: 1-800-222-1222

•Label vials with patient's name or unique identifier and the date of collection.
•**UNLABELED SPECIMENS WILL NOT BE TESTED.**
•A completed Bacteriology Test Request Form must accompany specimen.

Specimen Collection and Handling

•The patient should be instructed not to take any antacids, oily laxatives, or anti-diarrheal medications, unless prescribed by the physician.
•Pass the stool into a clean, dry, plastic disposable container (e.g., margarine, cottage cheese, etc.), or place a large plastic bag or kitchen wrap over the toilet seat to catch the specimen.
•DO NOT MIX URINE OR WATER WITH THE STOOL SPECIMEN.
•Formed or semi-formed stool: Use the stick provided to pick a portion of the stool equivalent to the size of a navy bean, and MIX it into the Formalin vial. Sample small areas from the inside and outside of the stool. Any blood or mucous should be included. Repeat for the PVA vial.
•Liquid stool: Pour the stool into the vial up to the neck of the vial. Repeat for the PVA vial.
•Tighten the caps completely. A leaking specimen may be unsuitable for testing.
•Clean the outside of the vials with rubbing alcohol or soap and water if they are soiled.
•Wrap the labeled vials in absorbent material, and place each into a biohazard bag.
•Eliminate all the air in the bag by rolling the bag from the bottom to the zip lock seal.
•Seal the bag and place each bagged vial, elongated and on top of the cotton provided with the mailer.
•Wash hands thoroughly. If liquid from either vial gets on the skin, flush the skin with running water. Consult a physician if irritation develops.

Complete Test Request Form

•A Bacteriology Test Request Form must be filled out completely. Testing is dependent upon this information; therefore, results may be delayed if information is not provided.

Shipping Instructions

•Include completed Bacteriology Test Request Form in side pocket of biohazard bag.
•Place all materials in Styrofoam container, and place in mailer.
•Ship at room temperature as soon as possible via first class mail. **DO NOT USE WET ICE.**
•**SEND TO UHL at Oakdale Campus in Iowa City (See address below).**
•Ship multiple specimens in packaging compliant with USPS or IATA regulations.

Contact Information

•For test request forms and kits: 319/335-4466
•For additional forms, go to http://www.uhl.uiowa.edu/kitsquotesforms
•For Ova and Parasite questions: 319/335-4336

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