
Microbiology- Southwestern Vermont Medical Center

BLOOD CULTURE Collection Protocol

1. Obtain a set of aerobic and anaerobic blood culture bottles.
2. Remove plastic cap from the top of each bottle and discard.
3. Disinfect rubber stoppers well with alcohol wipe then allow it to air dry.
4. Locate vein to be punctured.
*NOTE: Gloves are to be worn at all times during a venipuncture procedure.
5. Disinfect skin surrounding venipuncture site as follows:
 - a. Remove Chloro Prep one-Step Prep Applicator from package.
 - b. Hold in horizontal position and squeeze wings together to break ampule. Do not continue to squeeze handle.
 - c. Place sponge on selected venipuncture site and scrub vigorously for 30 seconds.
 - d. Allow to dry for 30 seconds. Do not touch the cleansed site with fingers or any other non-sterile object. Place a STERILE surgical glove on the hand of the palpating finger if some difficulty necessitates touching puncture site again.
6. Using vacutainer blood culture device with butterfly or sterile syringe and needle, aseptically obtain recommended volume of blood as follows:
Adult: 20 mL
Children: 10 mL or less as size dictates
Neonates: 1-3 mL
7. Split sample of blood obtained between both bottles, inoculating the anaerobic (purple) capped bottle first. If less than 1mL is obtained, inoculate only the aerobic (blue or gray capped) bottle.
8. Gently invert bottles to mix contents.
9. Label bottles with patient's name, date and time drawn, volume of blood inoculated into each bottle, and initials of the person who performed the venipuncture.
10. Deliver to laboratory ASAP at room temperature. Do not refrigerate.
11. Indicate when endocarditis, brucellosis, or fungal infection is suspected, to insure proper incubation period.

BLOOD CULTURE Collection Protocol for MYCOBACTERIUM (Acid-Fast Bacilli)

1. Obtain 2 green-top, heparinized tubes.
2. Disinfect top of tubes with alcohol wipe; let dry.
3. Locate vein to be punctured.
*NOTE: Gloves are to be worn at all times during a venipuncture procedure.
4. Disinfect skin surrounding venipuncture site as follows:
 - a. Remove Chloro Prep one-Step Prep Applicator from package.
 - b. Hold in horizontal position and squeeze wings together to break ampule. Do not continue to squeeze handle.
 - c. Place sponge on selected venipuncture site and scrub vigorously for 30 seconds.
 - d. Allow to dry for 30 seconds. Do not touch the cleansed site with fingers or any other non-sterile object. Place a STERILE surgical glove on the hand of the palpating finger if some difficulty necessitates touching puncture site again.
5. Perform venipuncture to obtain blood according to standard protocol.

6. Gently invert tubes several times to mix blood and prevent clotting of specimen.
7. Label tubes with patient's name, date and time drawn, and initials of person performing the venipuncture.
8. Deliver to laboratory ASAP at room temperature.

Collection of Stool (Bowel Movement) for Culture

1. Using clear plastic container, have bowel movement. Go directly into container. DO NOT RETRIEVE STOOL FROM TOILET BOWL. DO NOT URINATE ON THE SPECIMEN OR IN THE SPECIMEN CONTAINER.
2. Using one of the cotton-tipped swabs provided, pick up a portion of stool so that the swab is well coated. Be sure to pick parts which contain blood or mucus.
3. Place the swab about one-third of the way into the glass tube marked CARY BLAIR; break-off the excess wooden stick.
4. Repeat steps 2 and 3 with the second swab provided; replace cap tightly on the tube.
5. Print your name and the time and date of collection on the tube.
6. Place the tube back into the bag, keep at room temperature and deliver to the laboratory at Southwestern Vermont Medical Center.

IF YOUR DOCTOR HAS ORDERED MORE THAN ONE STOOL CULTURE, BE SURE TO COLLECT STOOL SAMPLES ON DIFFERENT DAYS. YOUR TEST MAY BE REJECTED IF MORE THAN ONE SAMPLE IS COLLECTED ON THE SAME DAY.

Collection of Stool (Bowel Movement) for C. Difficile Testing

1. Using clear plastic container, have bowel movement. Go directly into container. DO NOT RETRIEVE STOOL FROM TOILET BOWL. DO NOT URINATE ON THE SPECIMEN OR IN THE COLLECTION CONTAINER.
2. Replace cover on container tightly so that specimen does not leak.
3. Print your name and the time and date of collection on the collection container.
4. Place the container back into the bag and deliver to the laboratory at Southwestern Vermont Medical Center WITHIN 1 HOUR OF COLLECTION.
5. If you cannot deliver the specimen to the lab within 1 hour of collection, REFRIGERATE THE SPECIMEN FOR UP TO 24 HOURS. FREEZE THE SPECIMEN FOR UP TO 72 HOURS if further delay is anticipated.

Collection of Stool (Bowel Movement) for Ova & Parasites (O&P)

Giardia Antigen, Cryptosporidium Exam, Cyclospora Smear

1. Using clear plastic container, have bowel movement. Go directly into container. DO NOT RETRIEVE STOOL FROM TOILET BOWL. DO NOT URINATE ON THE SPECIMEN OR IN THE COLLECTION CONTAINER.
2. Open the plastic vial containing the UNIFIX fixative (PURPLE CAP or BLACK CAP). Using the collection spoon built into the lid of the vial (or 2 wooden sticks), place small scoops of stool into the vial until the fluid rises to the red line on the vial. DO NOT ADD STOOL OVER THE RED LINE.
3. Using 2 wooden sticks, mix stool sample in fluid by pressing stool particles against the side of the vial until all parts of stool come in contact with the fluid, and stool sample is

smooth and thoroughly mixed.

Replace cap, close tightly and shake the vial vigorously until the contents are well mixed.

4. Print your name and the time and date of collection on the vial and place the vial back into the plastic bag.

IF YOUR DOCTOR HAS ORDERED MORE THAN ONE OVA & PARASITE EXAM, BE SURE TO COLLECT STOOL SAMPLES ON DIFFERENT DAYS. YOUR TEST MAY BE REJECTED IF MORE THAN ONE SAMPLE IS COLLECTED ON THE SAME DAY. DO NOT REFRIGERATE OR FREEZE O&P VIAL!

Stool Occult Blood Collection – Patient Instructions

CAUTION: For accurate test results, read instructions completely before performing this test.

Instructions:

- ◆ For accurate test results, apply sample from bowel movement collected on *three different days* to slide, using a different slide for each day.
- ◆ Do not collect sample if blood is visible in your stool or urine (e.g. menstruation, active hemorrhoids, or urinary tract infection). Contact your doctor.
- ◆ For the most accurate test results collect each stool sample before contact with the toilet bowl water. You may use any clean dry container.
- ◆ Return completed slide to your doctor or laboratory *no later than 14 days* after your first sample collection.
- ◆ Protect slide from heat, light and volatile chemicals (iodine, ammonia, bleach and household cleaners).
- ◆ Remove toilet bowl cleaners from toilet tank and flush twice before proceeding.

Drug Guidelines¹

- ◆ For *seven* days before and during the collection period avoid non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs such as ibuprofen, naproxen or aspirin (*more than one adult aspirin a day*).
- ◆ Acetaminophen (Tylenol) can be taken as needed.
- ◆ For *three* days before and during the collection period avoid vitamin C in excess of 250 mg a day from supplements and citrus fruits and juices.^{2,3}

Diet Guidelines

- ◆ For *three* days before and during the collection period avoid red meats (beef, lamb and liver).
- ◆ Eat a well balanced diet including *fiber such as bran cereals, fruits and vegetables*.

Notes:

1. Please talk to your doctor or pharmacist if you have any questions about medications you take daily.
2. 100% of RDA of vitamin C for an adult is 60mg a day.
3. Some iron supplements contain vitamin C in excess of 2500mg.

COLLECTION INSTRUCTIONS CHEAT SHEET

<u>ORDER</u>	<u>COLLECTION</u>	<u>STORAGE TEMP.</u>
Stool Culture	Put 2 swabs in Cary Blair media	Room Temperature
Stool for WBC	Fresh stool in container provided	Refrigerated
O&P	Put in O&P vials provided	Room Temperature
C. Difficile Toxin	Fresh stool in container provided	Refrigerated
Occult Blood	Put on Occult Blood slides provided	Room Temperature or Refrigerated