

## Stool Culture Collection Instructions

 **The specimen container contains a poisonous liquid. DO NOT drink. Keep container out of the reach of children.**

**DO NOT use laxatives prior to the collection of stool specimens.**

### Instructions

1. Label the orange-capped vial(s) with the patient's full legal name, date of birth and collection date and time. Place the vial(s) on a table or flat surface.
2. Pass urine into the toilet. **Do not** let urine or water touch the stool specimen.
3. Place plastic wrap or a collection hat over the toilet bowl. Lower the seat and pass stool onto the plastic wrap or into the hat. Do not pass stool directly into the specimen vial.
4. Open the vial containing the liquid. Using the collection spoon built into the lid of the vial or wooden tongue depressors if provided, place small scoops of stool into the vial until the liquid reaches the fill line. **Do not** over fill the specimen vial.
5. Replace the lid on the vial and twist the cap on tightly. Verify the lid is closed securely.
6. Shake the specimen vial vigorously until the mixture is well mixed.
7. Wash hands thoroughly. If any liquid from the vial gets on your skin or in your eyes, flush site with running water. If irritation develops, consult your health care provider.
8. Repeat process with successive stool samples as instructed by your health care provider.
9. Verify that all vials are properly labeled. Return the samples to a Sanford Patient Service Center or Sanford laboratory as soon as possible.