Stool Tests

A sample of your child’s stool needs to be tested. This will help your child’s doctor to provide care for him.

You will be able to collect a stool specimen from your child as follows:

- Younger child – Take a small amount of stool from your child’s diaper and put it into the storage container provided.

- Older child – Have your child go to the bathroom on the toilet with the container (hat) positioned so the stool goes into the container. Take a small amount of stool and put into the storage container provided.

Storage Containers:

You will be given one of three storage containers to put the stool in. Each container is used for specific tests. If provided, please refer to the package insert for detailed instructions.

- **Carry Blair Media** – Media must be put into the refrigerator within 20 minutes of collection and returned to the laboratory with in 24 hours of collection. Specimens stored in this media are most often used for culture of bacteria that cause diarrhea.

- **Zinc PVA with 10% Formalin** – The liquids in these 2 tubes are TOXIC and should be kept away from children. Containers may be stored at room temperature but should be returned to the laboratory within 24 hours of collection. This media is used to test for parasites.

- **Polycup** – Specimen must be put in refrigerator within 20 minutes of collection and returned to laboratory within 24 hours. This container may be used for a variety of tests including Clostridium difficile, occult blood, pH, reducing sugars, non-reducing sugars, fat, and leukocytes.

Specimen Label:

If a preprinted label was not given to you, please print the patient name and birth date, along with the date and time the stool was collected, on the container.

Remember:

The laboratory can only give results to your child’s doctor.

If you have questions, please call your child’s doctor or clinic, or the Children's Mercy Hospital Information Line at (816) 234-3188.