Stool Collection on Infants and Small Children

Stool specimen can be collected by lining child’s diaper with a non-absorbent material such as plastic wrap. Specimen can also be collected by attaching a pediatric urine collection bag to the infant’s rectal area.

After an adequate amount of stool is obtained, specimen must be transferred to appropriate transport container within approximately 2 hours of collection. Small quantities of stool (less than walnut size) can be placed in transport media if amount of media is proportional to amount of stool. For example, if the specimen is one-half the size of a walnut, half of the transport media should be discarded prior to adding stool specimen.