**Patient Instructions for Collection of Stool Specimen**

The physician has requested that testing be performed on a stool specimen. A sterile collection kit has been provided.

1. Read the following instructions carefully. Proper use of this kit will assist laboratory in obtaining accurate results.
2. Do not use a laxative before collecting specimen.
3. If more than 1 specimen is requested, best results are obtained if multiple specimens are collected over a 3 to 10-day period.
4. Place the date and time collected on each container. If multiple specimens are not dated or have same date, they will be pooled together and tested as 1 specimen, in turn decreasing the opportunity for pathogen and/or parasite detection.
5. Do not pass specimen into toilet, urinate on specimen or in transport vials, or pass specimen directly into vial.

**Patient Instructions for Commode Specimen Collection**

1. To collect stool specimen, pull up toilet seat. Place commode collection system on bowl in center and towards rear.
2. Put toilet seat on frame to hold unit in place. **Caution:** Stool specimen must not contain urine.
3. After use, distribute stool specimen into appropriate collection vials (See Stool Specimen Collection Kit instructions below.)
4. Upon collection completion, dispose of unit. **Do not return collection unit to clinic.**

**Patient Instructions for Stool Specimen Collection Kit**

1. This kit consists of 3 vials. Two vials have liquid in them and 1 does not. Be sure to place specimen in all 3 vials. Label each of the vials with patient name before collecting specimen.
2. Open 1 of the vials containing a liquid. Use spoon built into lid and place enough specimen in vial so liquid reaches red line. **Note:** Select areas of stool that appear bloody, slimy, or watery. If stool is solid, please try to sample from a couple of different areas.
3. Once the specimen has been placed in the vial containing the liquid, screw the cap down tightly and shake the vial vigorously to mix the stool specimen.
4. Repeat steps 2 and 3 with the other liquid-containing vial.
5. In the vial containing no liquid, place specimen into the container until it is half full. Replace the cap tightly but do not shake. If there is a delay in bringing the specimen to the clinic/laboratory, please refrigerate this vial only until you transport the specimen.
6. Place the specimen in biohazard bag provided and seal.
7. Submit the specimen to the laboratory.

**Pediatric Specimen Collection**

1. The best method is to transfer some of the specimen into the preservative above.
2. If not enough specimen is available to transfer to the preservative, the diaper may be submitted, but the diaper must be received in the laboratory as soon as possible after collection.
3. The specimen may or may not be suitable for testing. If the specimen is rejected you will be notified.
   **Hint:** Placing plastic wrap in the back portion of the diaper will aid in collecting stool specimen from a diaper. Refer to steps 2 and 3 in the section entitled Stool Specimen Collection Kit for collection instructions.