

**PATIENT INSTRUCTIONS: STOOL CULTURE**

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| **Supplies needed:*** **Collection hat**
* **Plastic biohazard bag**
* **Brown paper bag**
* **1 Cary Blair vial containing liquid**
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| **Specimen:*** **Stool**
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| **Guidelines:**  **Patient should not collect stool if using barium, until the barium is visibly cleared from stool.** |
| **If you have any questions after reading these instructions please contact us at 618-257-5094** |
| **STEP:** | **INSTRUCTIONS** |
| **1.** | **Wash hands** |
| **2.** | **Place the collection hat under the seat of your toilet.** |
| **3.** | **Capture your stool in the collection hat. Stool cannot be mixed with urine.****Infants- because diapers may absorb part of the stool it is important to line the diaper with plastic wrap. Once the child passes a stool or diarrhea transfer it into the vial** |
|  **4.** | **Remove cap from vial.** |
| **5.** | **Use the small scoop attached to the lid to fill the vial up to the red line indicated on each vial. Transfer small amounts of stool from areas that appear slimy, bloody or watery. If the stool is firm take small samples from both ends and the middle.** |
| **6.** | **Screw the cap back on the vial tightly.** |
| **7.** | **Shake the vial until contents are well mixed** |
| **8.** | **Write the date and time of collection on the vial’s label.** |
| **9.** | **Place the vial in the plastic biohazard bag.** |
| **10.** | **Place the biohazard bag containing the vial’s into the brown paper bag.** |
| **11.** | **Wash hands** |
| **12.** | **Cary Blair vial can be stored at room temperature and are accepted up to 7 days after collection. Bring the stool specimen to the laboratory. Do not refrigerate.** |
| **13.** | **If fresh stool is collected without using a Cary Blair vial, bring the stool specimen to the laboratory within 2 hours of collection. Do not refrigerate.** |