

Stool Sample for *C. difficile* Toxin Home Collection Instructions for Patients

Your doctor has ordered a laboratory test, which requires you to collect a small sample of stool, place it in a specimen cup, and return it to the hospital. Your doctor may have ordered either a single collection or multiple collections. Please follow these instructions to ensure accurate test results.

Planning the collection

Plan the collection so you can deliver the sample during the Specimen Collection Centre business hours, which are Monday to Friday, 7:30 am to 3:15 pm. Do not collect mucus on weekends, as the sample will not be tested in time to maintain its integrity.

1. **Collect a sample stool.** You may collect the sample in any clean and dry disposable container. You may find it easier to collect the sample on a piece of plastic wrap under the toilet seat, but suspended over the water of your toilet.
 - a. Do not contaminate the stool specimen with water or urine.
 - b. The consistency of the sample should be soft or watery like diarrhea. Formed stool will not be accepted for this test.
2. **Transfer a portion of the sample to the specimen cup.** Once you have collected a stool sample, unscrew the cap of the specimen cup. Using a clean plastic spoon or another disposable item, transfer a small portion of the stool sample into the cup. Do not contaminate the outer surfaces of the specimen cup with stool.
3. **Recap the specimen cup securely.** Replace the cap tightly to prevent leaking.
4. **Wash your hands** thoroughly with soap and water.
5. **Label the specimen cup.**
 - a. Include your full name and date of birth
 - b. Indicate the collection date and time.
6. **Deliver the specimen cup to the HGH Specimen Collection Centre during business hours.**
 - a. Bring the sample as soon as possible after the collection, or the next morning at the latest. Refrigerate the sample if you cannot deliver it immediately.
 - b. Please register first at the Information desk and include the test requisition provided by your doctor with the sample.
 - c. Then proceed to the Specimen Collection Centre. Enter through Cardiology.

Address

Specimen Collection Centre
Block B, Level 1
Hawkesbury and District General Hospital
1111 Ghislain Street
Hawkesbury, Ontario K6A 3G5

Business Hours

Monday to Friday from 7:30 am to 3:15 pm
Closed on public holidays

Questions?

613-632-1111, extension 51201