

# Patient Instructions for Stool collection for Culture / Sensitivity Tests

1. Confirm the collection container is labeled correctly with:

- your (the patient) first and last name,
- the date and time of collection, and
- another identifier such as date of birth or healthcare number.

**Incorrectly or incompletely labeled specimens will not be tested.**

2. **Do not** use laxatives, antacids or anti-diarrheal medication for at least 1 week before collection of the specimen.

3. First pass urine into the toilet (if you have to).

4. Collect the stool specimen in a clean wide-mouthed container (or directly into the sterile plastic cup provided by lab) (eg. paper plate).

**The stool specimen must not come in contact with water or urine.**

5. Carefully unscrew the cap from the plastic collection container. Do not touch the inside of the lid or container with your fingers.

6. Using the applicator stick, fill the container half full.

- **Do not** add any foreign materials such as toilet paper or plastic wrap.
- Collect stool from areas that look bloody, mucousy or watery.

7. Close the screw cap tightly. (If the outside of the container is contaminated with stool, wash the exterior with soap and water, dry and place in the bag provided)

8. Seal the container in the zip locked section of the bag and requisition in the pouch section of the bag.

9. Wash your hands with soap and water.

10. Bring the container and lab requisition to laboratory **as soon as possible** (within 18 hours). Keep the sample at room temperature until it is brought to the lab. Prolonged delays will affect the test results.