

Patient Information from



OVA & PARASITES, STOOL (O&P)

The following are substances that interfere with this exam. It is suggested not to collect the specimen immediately for these tests:

- bismuth, barium (wait 7-10 days)
- antimicrobial agents (wait 2 weeks)
- gallbladder dye (wait 3 weeks after procedure)

Please notify your physician if you have any travel history outside of the United States or Canada.

Label the container with patient's name and date of collection before obtaining the specimen.

ADULTS

It is preferred that the stool specimen be collected *directly into* the plastic, screw-capped, sterile container supplied by Meadville Medical Center Laboratory. Take care not to contaminate the stool specimen with urine or water.

CHILDREN

A "collection hat" may be obtained from Meadville Medical Center Laboratory. This "hat" is placed over the toilet to aid in collection of the specimen. If the specimen is collected in this method, the patient should urinate into another container before the stool sample is collected.

BABIES

Specimens in diapers are not acceptable. The stool material should be scraped into a plastic, screw-capped, sterile container supplied by Meadville Medical Center Laboratory.

Diarrhea

Babies with severe diarrhea may use a U-bag collection system. (The U-bag may be obtained from the physician office or Meadville Medical Center Laboratory.) Attach the bag over the anal area in an attempt to retrieve the specimen before it soaks into the diaper. Empty bag contents into the screw-capped, sterile container.

Deliver the specimen to the lab as soon as possible after collection. **THE SPECIMEN MUST BE KEPT COLD UNTIL TRANSPORTED.** The stool specimen may be stored in a refrigerator or on ice to prevent the growth of bacteria in the sample. If using ice, place specimen container in a zip-lock bag inside the bag of ice. This will prevent any water leakage into specimen. **DO NOT FREEZE.**

Specimens older than 24 hours or that have been at room temperature for longer than 6 hours are not acceptable.

☞ Please **report to Meadville Medical Center Registration** before delivering the specimen to the lab. This is necessary for complete specimen identification and processing.