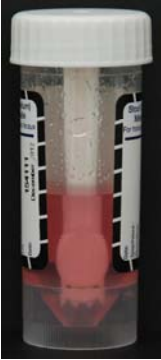




NEW Stool Collection Vials

The stool collection vials provided by LifeLabs to physician offices and patients at our Patient Service Centres have recently changed. The new vials and usage guidelines are indicated below.

	Bacterial Stool Culture (C&S)	
	Vial	White Top, Pink Liquid
	Contents	Cary Blair Transport Media
	Uses	Salmonella, Shigella, <i>E. coli</i> 0157, Aeromonas, Campylobacter, Yersinia, Plesiomonas, Vibrio, White Blood Cells

	Ova & Parasites (O&P)	
	Vial	Red-Burgundy Top, Clear Liquid, Clear Paddle
	Contents	SAF Fixative
	Uses	Ova, Parasites, White Blood Cells

	<i>C. difficile</i>, Viral & Other Stool Analysis	
	Vials	Red Top Clean Vial, Red Paddle (picture on left) OR Sterile Urine Collection Container
	Contents	Empty
	Uses	<i>Clostridium difficile</i> , Vero toxin, Adenovirus, Norwalk virus, Rotavirus, Porphyrins, Fats, Chymotrypsin, Meat fibers, Undigested fibers, pH, Reducing substances, White Blood Cells

Please take note of the following:

1. The above information as well as clear collection instructions are provided for each vial ordered.
2. Vials will no longer be distributed in two-vial-kits. Please order each vial type separately.
3. Some tests previously performed from the stool culture vial now require a separate Red Top Clean vial (or sterile urine container).

Dexamethasone Suppression Test CHANGES

As of December 12, 2011, LifeLabs will no longer dispense Dexamethasone tablets for the Dexamethasone Suppression Test. The ordering physician will now have to write a prescription for Dexamethasone which has to be filled by the patient at a pharmacy. The patient should also be given the LifeLabs requisition form with the AM Cortisol ordered. LifeLabs will continue to draw blood for a morning Cortisol after the patient has taken Dexamethasone the evening before.



Patient instructions for the Dexamethasone Suppression Test are as follows:

- Check if Patient Service Centre (PSC) will be open on morning planned to have test done.
- Fill physician's prescription for Dexamethasone at pharmacy. Take 1 mg Dexamethasone (usually dispensed as two 0.5 mg tablets) before going to bed the evening before blood to be drawn for test.
- On the morning of test, eat breakfast as usual unless other lab tests requiring fasting were ordered.
- Be at PSC within 3 hours of waking up in the morning. Blood will not be drawn beyond this time limit as the results would be invalid. Report to the PSC with at least 30 minutes to spare before the 3 hour time limit expires.

Also as of December 12, 2011:

- There will no longer be a separate reporting format for serum Cortisol AM reported for the Dexamethasone Suppression Test. The following reference values will be indicated on reports below the AM Cortisol result:
Reference interval: 140 – 690 nmol/L
If Dexamethasone has been given: <140 nmol/L
- Abnormally low serum Cortisol results will no longer be phoned routinely unless patient is less than one year of age.

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