

## COLLECTION OF PARASITOLOGY SPECIMENS

### Collection of Specimens for Parasitology

Proper transport and storage of specimens are prerequisites for reliable culture results. Ensure that the requisition and specimen are labeled with:

- patient's full name
- date of birth or health card number
- **source of specimen**
- date of collection
- time of collection

The examination requested should be specified on the requisition.

Information concerning anti-microbial therapy or allergy, pregnancy, clinical diagnosis, or underlying disease should also be noted.

Specimens should be transported promptly to LifeLabs Laboratory. Delays to processing, beyond the recommended acceptable holding times, will compromise culture results.

All specimens and body fluids are considered potentially hazardous. They should be treated as if capable of causing disease. Clinical information or patient history as provided by the physician determines the scope of the laboratory investigation by ensuring that all laboratory services are relevant or adequate for each clinical situation.

### Stool Parasites (PCR Technology)

Using a **Copan Fecal Swab**, collect a small piece of fresh stool with the swab. Cap the specimen container (make sure the swab portion is in the container).

Refrigerate specimen at 2-8°C and submit to the laboratory WITHIN 24 hours of collection.

For longer storage, freeze at -20 °C and submit within 5 days. Keep specimen in freezer until ready for pickup. Ship to laboratory on a frozen ice pack.

**Record the date frozen on requisition**



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### Stool Ova & Parasites (Manual Microscopy)

To the SAF fixative container (red lid and clear fluid), add 2-3 spoonfuls of stool until the liquid reaches the “Fill Line”. After replacing the cap, gently shake the container until the specimen is well mixed with the liquid. Maintain specimen at room temperature and submit to the laboratory WITHIN 72 hours of collection.

**CAUTION: SAF FIXATIVE CONTAINS FORMALDEHYDE**  
**Toxic by inhalation and if swallowed. Irritating to the eyes, respiratory system, and skin. May cause sensitization by inhalation or by skin contact. Risk of serious damage to eyes.**

OAML guideline (CLP-O18) recommends that physicians initially request testing of only one properly collected stool specimen for ova and parasite examination. Subsequent testing should be requested only if clinically indicated and the results of the first test are negative or if positive results do not match the clinical situation.



### Collection for Pinworm Examination

A special kit that includes detailed collection instructions for the patient is available from the local LifeLabs Laboratory.

The specimen must be collected early in the morning **before** bathing or using the toilet. The sticky surface of the specimen paddle is pressed firmly against the skin surrounding the anus to pick up eggs.

Return the paddle to the transport container provided.

Label container with patient's full name, date of birth or health card number, and collection date and time.

Maintain refrigerated at 2-8°C and submit to the laboratory WITHIN 48 hours of collection.

Multiple consecutive samples are usually required to diagnose infection as deposition of the eggs on the perianal skin is sporadic.



## COLLECTION OF PARASITOLOGY SPECIMENS

### Collection of Urine for Schistosoma

Collect the last voided portion of mid-day urine sample into a sterile 90 mL container.

Label the container with patient's full name, date of birth or health card number, source of specimen and date and time of collection.

Maintain at room temperature and submit to the laboratory WITHIN 24 hours of collection.

### Collection of Specimens for Identification (Non-Stool): Worm, Insect, Proglottid, Skin Scrapings for Scabies, Hair Specimens for Lice

Testing is performed at PHL. Send specimen with completed PHL requisition.

Specimens include worms, insects, proglottids, skin scrapings for scabies, hair specimens for lice and unknown substances.

Place into a sterile 90 mL container.

Label the container with patient's full name, date of birth or health card number, source of specimen and date and time of collection.

Maintain at room temperature and submit to the laboratory WITHIN 24 hours of collection.

