

Health PEI

Guide to Laboratory Services

How to Collect a 24 or 72 Hour Stool Sample

(Stool Sample for Fecal Fat)

IMPORTANT: TO ENSURE ACCURATE TEST RESULTS, PLEASE FOLLOW THESE INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY.

How to collect the samples:

- Collect **ALL** stool passed for a 24/72 hour period.
- Collect stool **directly in** the plastic bag provided in the pre-weighed container that is given to you by the laboratory.
- If, during the collection time, the can is getting to be more than 2/3 full, obtain another container from the laboratory to complete the test.

NOTE: Only stool should go into the container. Do not put in toilet paper, urine, plastic wrap or any other foreign material.
It is essential that **all** specimen(s) be collected in the container since the total weight of the specimen is required for an accurate result.

Storage of the container:

- Keep the collection container in a cool place. Do not freeze.
- Keep the lid of the container on tightly

What to do after collecting the samples:

- Clearly label the container and requisition with your **NAME** and **Provincial Health Card Number** (as they appear on your Health Card) and the **START** and **FINISH** date and times.
- Promptly bring the container and requisition to the laboratory. Hand both of them to one of the laboratory staff; do not just leave them on the counter.

EXAMPLE:

START Time - 7:00 a.m. Jan. 5, 2011
Collect all stool samples for a complete 24/72 hours.

FINISH Time - 7:00 a.m. Jan. 6, 2011 (24 hour collection)
- 7:00 a.m. Jan. 8, 2011 (72 hour collection)
Write the **START** and **FINISH** times on the requisition and container.