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Department of Public Health  
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Instructions for Collection of Feces Specimen  
for Enteric Bacteriologic Studies

NOTE: TO INSURE A PROPER SPECIMEN, ONLY A SMALL AMOUNT OF FECES IS REQUIRED. DO NOT FILL THE BOTTLE WITH FECES. THE SPECIMEN MAY BE UNSATISFACTORY FOR TESTING IF MORE THAN THE SUGGESTED AMOUNT OF FECES IS USED.

Procedure:

1. Wash hands well before and after taking the specimen.
2. Remove both specimen bottles from container. There is one bottle containing semi-solid media and one bottle containing liquid media.
3. Print patient's name and date specimen taken on the label on the two bottles.
4. Pass the specimen into a clean container, such as a bedpan, newspaper, or wax paper (DO NOT PASS INTO TOILET.)
5. If the specimen is liquid, transfer 1 ml feces into each vial and mix as indicated below.
6. With the wooden stick provided, pick up a portion of feces the size of the marked end (approx. 1/2inch) of the stick, place in the bottle containing clear liquid, and mix thoroughly with the liquid in the bottle. Using the second stick, pick up another portion of feces of the same size, place in the bottle containing the semi-solid medium. Push feces to bottom of bottle, making certain that the fecal material is below surface of medium.
7. Replace the caps on the bottles, and tighten securely.
8. Put the bottles in the inner container with sufficient packing on the top and bottom and in between the bottles to prevent breakage in the mail.
9. Tighten the cap of inner container.
10. Fill out laboratory form completely. Put the ordering physician's name and address in return address area.
11. Wrap laboratory slip around the outside of the container, place it in the outer cardboard container and tape it shut.
12. Mail First Class or hand deliver to the laboratory on the day specimen is collected; keep in a cool, dry place until it is mailed.