

**Central Vermont Medical Center**

Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine

**STOOL CHEAT SHEET**

Test	Mnemonic	Preferred Specimen	Testing Requirement	Lab Use Only
Acid Fast <sup>1</sup> (Modified)  Includes: Cryptosporidium, Cyclospora & Isospora.	MODAF	Unpreserved or placed in formalin	< 24 hrs refrigerated  <2 hrs preferred  Reject if ≥ 24 hrs	- Order if Cyclospora is needed. - Process for O+P (See step 3 under O&P) - Reflexed if Crypto is invalid on parasite screen.
C-Diff PCR	CDAPCR	Unpreserved	5 days refrigerated	
Culture	ST	Protocol C&S (Orange Top)	< 96 hrs @ RT or refrigerated	Reject spec's on inpatients that have been in-house > 72 hrs
		Alternative Spec: Unpreserved	< 24 hrs refrigerated  <2 hrs preferred	
H-Pylori Ag	HPYAG	Unpreserved only	< 72 hrs refrigerated (Or frozen at -20 until tested)	

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O&P <sup>1,2</sup>  Note: the O&P exam includes a Parasite Screen.	O&P	Fresh unpreserved Specimen	< 24 hrs refrigerated  < 2 hrs preferred	-Perform Direct exam on liquid spec's < 2 hrs -Make PVA (Trichrome) smears < 3 hrs (1 drop stool+ 3 drops PVA) -Make 1:4 dilution in urine cup w/formalin
Occult Blood	STOB	Unpreserved only	< 12 days (already on card)	
Giardia/Crypto <sup>1,2</sup> Screen	Parasite	Protocol C&S (Orange Top)	< 96 hrs @ RT or refrigerated	- If crypto=indeter, perform mod acid fast. - If crypto = pos, send to state
		Alternative spec: Unpreserved	< 72 hrs refrigerated	Perform < 1hr or make 1:4 dilution with formalin (test < 2 months)
Rotavirus <sup>3</sup>	ROTAV	Unpreserved only	< 72 hrs refrigerated (or frozen @ - 20 until tested)	

1. Three specimens collected at 2-3 day intervals are recommended.
2. For an O&P Exam, the patient must have a travel history outside North America in the last 6 weeks or a suspected parasite. With no travel history, perform a Parasite Screen.
3. Collect specimens after onset of symptoms. Peak virus is 3-5 days after onset. Declining virus 8-9 days after onset.