



Accredited to
ISO 15189:2022

Faeces

Synonyms

Stool, Faec

Clinical Indication

Diarrhoea. Diarrhoea and vomiting. Gastroenteritis

Provide detailed clinical information including:

- Date of onset
- Date of Admission if inpatient
- Contact with the suspected infection, outbreak,
- Details if suspected food poisoning
- Recent foreign travel. Provide dates and country
- Recent, current, or intended, antibiotic therapy, with dates.

Part of Profile / See Also

Routine Culture:

To be performed on samples from community.

Routine culture will NOT be performed on inpatients UNLESS admission was less than 3 days ago.

Culture to include Salmonella, Shigella, Campylobacter and E.coli 0157.

Microscopy:

For white blood cells, red blood cells, ova, cysts and parasites.

Performed if:

- Liquid samples
- Suspected parasites
- Foreign travel

Adenovirus/ Rotavirus:

Performed on Children 5 Years and Less

Cryptosporidium:

Performed on:

- Liquid samples
- Immunosuppressed
- Children 16 years old or less
- Foreign travel

C.difficile :

Refer to PTD-64 C.difficile for full details

Performed on:

- GP request
- Community patients >65 years with diarrhoeal stool
- Inpatients >2 years old
- Antibiotic Associated diarrhoea, Pseudomembranous colitis

NOT performed on formed stools

Outbreak:

- Healthcare institution (Hospital ward / Nursing home) outbreak will be investigated for Norovirus & C.difficile
- Community outbreak will be investigated for Salmonella, Shigella, Campylobacter and E.coli 0157 plus additional pathogens as indicated

Foreign Travel:

Routine culture and Cryptosporidium plus investigation for Vibrio species and microscopy for parasites if travel to endemic area.
Investigation for additional organisms on request

Additional Investigations:

Culture specifically for pathogens such as Aeromonas sp, Yersinia sp. This will be dependent on clinical details provided such as mesenteric adenitis or upon specific request.

Request Form

ICE or Medway order comms request or handwritten Microbiology form

Availability / Frequency of Analysis

On request during normal working hours

Turnaround Time

5 days
Norovirus – 2 working days following the receipt of the samples in the laboratory

Patient Preparation

Sample Requirements

Specimen Type

Faeces (Up to three separate specimens may be submitted).
If multiple samples are sent together, they must be labelled with the time of collection to indicate that they were collected at different times.

Sellotape prep rather than a stool sample may be submitted for investigation for Enterobius vermicularis (thread worm / pin worm)

Volume

Minimum 2 ml pea size portion of faeces

Container

Blue capped universal container with spoon or a sterile white topped container. Leak proof CE marked



Threadworm / Pin worm egg collecting kits for patients with suspected Enterobius vermicularis infection consist of sellotape slide in slide box. Clear sellotape to be used.

Reference Range & Units

Interferences

Interpretation & Clinical
Decision Value (if applicable)
References
Test code
Lab Handling

Significant pathogens will be reported.

UK SMI S 7: gastroenteritis

FAEC (routine) FOCP (parasites) OUT (outbreak) FSEL (Sellotape-Anal) NOVI and IHN (Norovirus) FVIR (Rota and Adeno) RFVI (Faecal virology – referred)

Samples processed on day of receipt