



PF-PTD-31

# **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

On request during normal working hours

Analysis

5 days

**Turnaround Time** 

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.

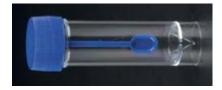
Sellotape prep rather than a stool sample may be submitted for investigation for Enterobius vermicularis (thread worm / pin worm)

#### 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



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Interpretation & Clinical	Significant pathogens will be reported.
Decision Value (if applicable)	
References	UK SMI S 7: gastroenteritis
Test code	FAEC (routine) FOCP (parasites) OUT (outbreak) FSEL (Sellotape-Anal) NOVI and IHNV (Norovirus) FVIR (Rota and Adeno) RFVI (Faecal virology – referred)
Lab Handling	Samples processed on day of receipt