



December 2010

A change to the stool ova and parasites kit

To Health Care Providers:

Effective December 1, 2010, new stool ova and parasite kits will be available from the Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion (OAHPP) public health laboratories (PHL).

Rationale:

Traditionally, stool ova and parasite detection has relied solely on microscopy. Newer and more sensitive methods such as enzyme immuno assay and polymerase chain reaction allow for improved species identification.

The current preserved specimen container (yellow top) has sodium acetate formalin (SAF) which does not permit application of these newer methods.

What's new?

PHL now requires the collection of stool in an additional container with no preservative. This will enable both improved service with existing newer methods and continued method development.

The new kit will:

- be identical to the previous one except that additional containers with NO PRESERVATIVE (white top) are included.
- detail instructions on how to fill the containers are included with each kit.
- include a total of three paired specimens (preservative and no preservative).
- require collection of stool from three separate bowel movements to obtain best results.

The container with no preservative (white top) should be sent either fresh (if within 72 hours) or frozen at -20°C if more than 72 hours of storage time is required prior to submission.

PLEASE NOTE: There are no changes to the existing test menu at this time and you must continue to submit the SAF container.

A change to the stool ova and parasites kit (Continued)

For further information:

- Parasitology laboratory at **416-235-5722**, or contact your local OAHPP laboratory.
- For the OAHPP Specimen Collection Guide and previous Lababstracts, refer to <http://www.oahpp.ca/publichealthlaboratories.php>