

Microbiology Department Patient information sheet:**Patients Guide to Taking Specimens****Faeces collection**

Your GP or other healthcare professional may ask you for a faeces sample to aid diagnosis in various conditions affecting the bowel. The faeces may contain harmful bacteria or other substances that may affect the digestive system that can be detected in the laboratory. Your GP should provide you with a plastic sealable container and explain how to collect the sample.



A stool sample can be tested to help diagnose.

- Gastroenteritis
- Inflammatory bowel disease such as Crohn's disease
- Food poisoning
- Bowel parasites

Collecting a stool sample

- Label the faeces container with your name, date of birth and date of sample collection.
- Place something in the toilet to catch the stool such as a clean potty or empty plastic food container. (Note you need to bin this after use).
- Make sure the sample does not touch the inside of the toilet.
- Use the spoon or spatula provided inside (attached to lid of container) to place the faeces inside the container to about one third full, replace the lid and screw securely shut.
- Put anything used to collect the sample inside a plastic bag, tie it up and place in the bin.
- Wash your hands thoroughly with soap and warm running water.

Try not to collect urine or toilet water during this process. Stool samples should be delivered to the GP practice or laboratory as soon as possible and should not be stored for any significant amount of time.

Results

The majority of faeces culture results will be reported back to the requesting Doctor within 4 days.

Please note - results cannot be given over the telephone.

Pateints will be advised of the result by the requesting clinician i.e GP or Consultant.

Our mission

To provide the excellent care we would expect for our families.

The Royal Bournemouth Hospital,
Castle Lane East, Bournemouth, Dorset, BH7 7DW

The Bournemouth Hospital Charity raises funds for the Bournemouth and Christchurch Hospitals to enhance patient care and purchase items which directly benefit patients and staff above and beyond that which can be funded by the NHS alone. If you would like to contribute to the Bournemouth Hospital Charity please contact them on **01202 704060**, email **charity@rbch.nhs.uk** or visit **www.bournemouthhospitalcharity.org**.

If you have any queries or concerns about your care at the Royal Bournemouth and Christchurch Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, the Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) would be happy to help you and can be contacted on **01202 704886/704301** or **pals@rbch.nhs.uk**.

If you would like this leaflet printed in a larger font, please contact the Communications Team on **01202 704905** during the office hours of 8.30am-5pm Monday - Friday.



Author: **Nathan Bourne**

Date: **January 2019** Version: **One** Review date: **January 2024** Ref: **038/18**

Website: www.rbch.nhs.uk ■ **Tel:** 01202 303626