

MECONIUM TESTING Collection Instructions

Preparation for Meconium Collection

1. Place a **plastic liner** (found in kit) into a diaper, orienting it in such a way that, when meconium is passed, it collects in the liner and not the absorbent diaper material. If the meconium collects and dries out on the diaper, it is not an acceptable specimen for testing.
2. Label the meconium collection container with the infant's name and unique identifying information.

Transferring Meconium into Collection Container

1. Open the **labeled** meconium collection container. The collection spoon/spatula is attached to the lid. Use the spoon to collect the meconium.

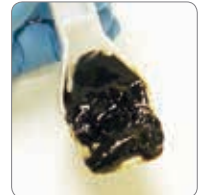


Collection Container

Collection spoon attached to lid

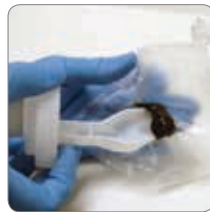


6. Continue collections until **five grams** of meconium is obtained on spoon or until the first milk stool appears.



Optimal amount—**Five grams** of meconium on spoon; front & side views.

2. Remove plastic liner from diaper. Collect all meconium that passed onto the plastic liner into the bowl of the collection spoon.



7. A minimum of **two grams** of moist meconium is required for testing. **Note:** Do not smear meconium on the walls of collection container, as this causes it to dry out and make it unsatisfactory for testing.

Minimum amount: **Two grams** of moist meconium on spoon.



3. Store the collection container in a refrigerator or at room temperature in between collections.

Specimen storage temperature
15 – 25 °C
OR
59 – 77 °F



4. If there is insufficient meconium (fewer than five grams) obtained from the first collection, prepare another diaper by lining it with a new plastic liner and repeat steps 2 and 3 as many times as needed.

8. Store the collection container in a refrigerator or at room temperature. Transport the labeled meconium collection at **room temperature**.



5. **Multiple** meconium stools should be collected using the same collection device. **Note:** To prevent meconium from drying out, keep all specimens together on the spoon.

1st collection already on spoon.
2nd collection being obtained.



For questions about meconium collection, contact MedTox Client Services at **(877)474-5767**.

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Meconium Requisition and Specimen Labeling Instructions

Patient/Specimen Identification

1. Include the infant's name and at least one additional unique identifier on the requisition and on the specimen container. The name on the requisition **must match** the name on the specimen container to ensure there are no delays in the testing process. **Note:** This is especially important as identifiers of newborns are commonly updated during the collection period.

Requisition Documentation

2. Provide ordering physician information.
3. Each employee collecting the sample must sign and date the requisition.
4. The employee sealing the container must also sign and date the requisition. **Note:** Signature and date are required in two places.

Test Request

5. Check the appropriate preprinted test code or specify a code in the space provided.

Requisition Label

6. Ensure that a requisition label (M# label) is placed on the specimen container. Remaining labels can be used as needed.



Specimen Container Seal

7. Place a specimen container seal over the top of container, ensuring that the bar code is placed in such a way that when the container is opened, the bar code remains fully intact and readable.



Package the container to send to MedTox

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