

## FAECES

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**DEFINITION**

Collection of faeces for laboratory examination

**PURPOSE**

Required for micro-biological or other laboratory investigation

**EQUIPMENT**

၁. Clinically Clean Specimen Container
၂. Bed Pan
၃. Spatula or Spoon
၄. Appropriate Laboratory Request
၅. Soap and Water
၆. Clean gloves.

**PROCEDURE**

SN	Action	Rationale
1.	Check the physician's order, progress notes and nursing care plan.	To obtain specific instructions and / or information
2.	Identify the patient  Allow patient to ask questions.	To fulfil legal requirements and hospital policies. To ensure that the right procedure is performed on the right patient.
3.	Explain the procedure to the patient.	To gain consent and co-operation.
4.	Ensure privacy.	To avoid unnecessary embarrassment to the patient.
5.	Wash hands and dry (refer Hand Washing procedure).	To prevent cross infection
6.	Request the patient to defecate into a clinically clean bedpan.	To avoid unnecessary contamination from other organisms.
7.	Scoop enough material and place in the specimen container using a spatula or a spoon, often incorporated in the specimen container.	To obtain an appropriate amount of specimen. To prevent contamination.

SN	Action	Rationale
8.	Examine the specimen for such features as colour, consistency and odour, and record your observations.	To monitor any fluctuations and trends.
9.	Clean and make the patient comfortable.	To ensure patient is comfortable after procedure.
10.	Label the specimen container and place in specimen collection bag.	To ensure the right specimen for the right patient for investigation.
11.	Send the specimen to the laboratory (refer procedure on specimen storage and transportation) with request appropriately filled and signed by the doctor.	
12.	Wash hands and dry (refer Hand Washing procedure).	To prevent cross infection
13.	Document the procedure appropriately.	To maintain records and professional accountability.

**Note**

*The patient could perform this procedure if instructed to do so.*

<p>Segments of tapeworm are seen easily in faeces and any such segments should be sent to the laboratory for identification.</p> <p>Patients suspected of suffering from amoebic dysentery should have any stool dispatched to the laboratory immediately.</p>	<p>Unless the head is dislodged, the tapeworm will continue to grow. Laboratory confirmation of the presence of the head is essential.</p> <p>The parasite causing amoebic dysentery exists in a free living non-motile cyst. Both are characteristic in their fresh state but are difficult to identify when dead.</p>
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