



## MEMO

**To:** All Regional Medical Laboratory Clients

**From:** Gerald Miller, PhD., Chief of Microbiology and Immunology  
Linda Strycker, MT(ASCP), Manager of Microbiology

**Subject:** **Stool culture preservative required for testing**

**Date:** Updated August 24, 2010

In 2008-09, RML requested that stool cultures be submitted in stool preservative. Starting September 1, 2010 all routine stool cultures will be **required** to be submitted in proper stool preservative. **Testing will be cancelled if not submitted in appropriate containers.** This is in accordance to CDC recommendations that stool cultures be tested for the presence of shiga toxins(s) producing E. coli strain 0111 as well as other EHEC strains such as 0157. In order for the shiga testing and recovery of pathogens to be optimum, the stool must be in preservative if not received in the RML main microbiology laboratory within 2 hours of collection. Overgrowth by non-pathogenic flora can inhibit the recovery of stool pathogens.

RML provides ETM collection containers which can be ordered by hand writing it on your RML Supply Order form: **ETM Collection Container Order #54523** and include the number of containers that you will need. Please also see the attached guidelines for stool collection and testing. If other testing is required it will need to be submitted in the proper collection container or testing will not be able to be performed.

Test Name: **Stool Culture for Bacterial Pathogens**  
Order Mnemonic: **C STOOL RT**  
Test Number: **6002450**  
Methodology: Standard culture and identification procedures for *Shigella*, *Salmonella*, *Campylobacter* and *Shiga toxin producing E. coli*  
Reference Range: Negative culture for Shigella, Salmonella, Campylobacter and Shiga-like toxin producing E. coli  
Specimen Required: **ETM VIAL (RED TOP)**  
CPT Codes: 87045 Shigella/Salmonella culture; 870476 Campylobacter culture; 87015, 87899 X 2 for E.coli Shiga toxin(s)

If you have questions, please contact Gerald C. Miller, PhD., Chief of Microbiology and Immunology, or Linda Strycker, MT(ASCP), Microbiology Manager at 918-744-2553 or 800-722-8077.