

C. diff Struggles: Sample Rejected by Lab

Seeing “Sample rejected by lab” is frustrating as recollecting specimens takes time out of an already busy day. Reduce time spent collecting and sending inappropriate stool samples by knowing when and what type of sample is appropriate to send!

Criteria to Send:

- Must have 3 watery, liquid bowel movements in less than 24 hours
- No laxatives or diarrhea causing intake in the past 24 to 48 hours (i.e., tube feeds, oral contrast, bowel regimens, lactulose, enema, MiraLAX)
- Cannot be ordered within 7 days of a previously positive test

Sample to Send:

- Only send unformed, liquid stool that will not hold a tongue depressor upright
- Non-liquid stool will be rejected by lab



Sample Rejected by Lab- Non-liquid specimen



Sample Accepted by Lab- Liquid, unformed stool