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CISSS Bas-Saint-Laurent

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and

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Centre intégré
de santé
et de services sociaux
du Bas-Saint-Laurent

Québec 

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IMMUNOCHEMICAL TEST FOR OCCULT BLOOD IN STOOL

Clinical Department of Laboratory Medicine



OPTI-DE-004

Your doctor has prescribed an immunochemical test **for occult blood** (hidden blood not visible to the naked eye) in your stools.

This simple test is used to detect colorectal cancer.

Do not take samples during your menstrual period or if you have bloody hemorrhoids. Wait two days after bleeding has stopped.

Materials required

- A tube-shaped container with a green cap (check the expiry date)
- A waterproof, biodegradable paper or a clean container
- A plastic zip-lock bag

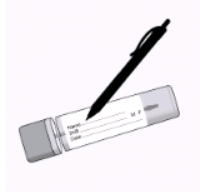


Québec 

SAMPLING METHOD

STEPS TO FOLLOW

Step 1: When you are ready to take the test, if you have not already done so, take the tube and clearly write your last name, first name, file number and the sampling date on the label.



Step 2: Unfold the paper. Place it directly over the clean water in the centre of the bowl so that the paper sticks to the sides of the bowl. If you prefer, you can use a clean container and dispose of it after taking the sample.



Step 3: Have your bowel movement on the paper or in the container. The stool must not come into contact with urine or any other liquid before taking the sample.

Step 4: Twist and pull the green cap to open the sampling tube.



Step 5: Lightly scrape the surface of the stool with the green stick attached to the tube's cap before the paper sinks into the water. Scrape off only a small amount of stool, enough to cover the tip of the stick. Leave the paper in the bowl and flush.



Step 6: Put the stick back in the tube and close it tightly. Do not reopen the tube after closing it.

Step 7: Wash your hands.

STORAGE

- Put the sampling tube in the plastic bag and close the bag.

Return samples within 48 hours.



RETURN OF SAMPLES

- Return your specimen to the place you were instructed to return it, i.e., the specimen collection centre at the hospital, the local point of service (LPS) or another location.
- When returning the sample, remember to bring **your hospital card or RAMQ card as well as your prescription, if necessary.**