

# CHILDLAB

## Guide to Laboratory Services

### ENTEROHEMORRHAGIC E. COLI (EHEC) SHIGA-LIKE TOXIN ANTIGEN TEST (STOOL)

#### I. GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

Enterohemorrhagic *E. coli* can cause diarrhea, hemorragic colitis and hemolytic-uremic syndrome. While O157:H7 is the most common EHEC strain encountered, many other EHEC strains exist. The EHEC antigen test is more sensitive than routine stool culture for detection of O157:H7 strains. It is also able to detect non-O157 shiga-like toxin producing strains that are not recovered by routine stool culture.

#### II. SPECIMEN COLLECTION

- (1) General collection requirements are the same as for routine stool culture. A single stool sample is sufficient for EHEC testing.
- (2) At least 2-4 ml of liquid stool or 2-4 gm (more, if possible) of formed stool should be placed in a Cary-Blair transport medium vial. The portions of stool which contain blood, pus, or mucus should be submitted. Routine stool culture can also be performed on the same Cary-Blair sample.
- (3) If passed stool is not readily obtainable, a rectal swab may be obtained using the dual culture swab system. This should be a separate collection from those that may be collected at the same time for routine stool culture.