

NeoCol: Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for Stool Sample Collection V1.0

Purpose:

The purpose of this SOP is to describe the standard procedures involved in obtaining stool samples from mothers and neonates according to the NeoCOL study protocol.

Principal:

Stools should be collected if they are:

- a) The first neonatal stool
- b) The first maternal stool post-delivery
- c) Occur within 2 hours of a planned rectal swab (before or after)

Stool samples provide a representative sample of the bacteria that colonise the lower gastrointestinal tract of mothers and neonates. The bacterial samples can be analysed to determine which species are present, and whether they contain resistance genes. Collecting stools at multiple time points will provide important information about the acquisition and persistence of resistant bacterial strains.

Responsibility:

This SOP applies to any clinical staff who are collecting stool samples from mothers and neonates participating in the NeoCOL study. It is the responsibility of those users to follow these guidelines when collecting rectal swabs for the study.

Safety Requirements:

Gloves should be worn during swab collection. Standard clinical hand hygiene practices should be followed before, and after sample collection. Handle all specimens with care and treat them as potentially infectious material.

Materials:

- Non-Sterile gloves.
- x1 disposable sterile spatula or tongue depressor.
- x1 stool container
- Plastic zip lock bag for specimen transport

Procedure:

1. Explain the procedure to the parent/guardian and obtain verbal consent.
2. Label each of the specimen containers according to the label coding system (see appendix).
3. Perform hand hygiene and put on gloves.
4. Open the stool container being careful not to touch the inside or rim.
5. Collect the stool sample with disposable sterile laboratory spatula. Collect sufficient sample to fill approximately 1/3 of the jar if possible. In neonates, it is best to collect an adequate amount of stool from different areas of the diaper to ensure a representative sample.
6. Securely close the lid of the container, and place into the plastic ziplock bag.
7. Dispose of any waste as per hospital policies.
8. Transport the swabs to the laboratory within 30 minutes.
9. Document the samples in the NeoCOL Sample Collection Log.

References

- Nil

Document History

Version	Author(s)	Approved by	Update Reason	Date	SOP No:
1.0	B. Dickson	P. Williams	New document	11JUL2023	NeoCOL_SOP03

Site Training Record

Trainee Name	Read/Understand SOP (Tick)	Access to SOP (Tick)	Trainee Signature	Date	Trainer Initials