



February 7, 2017

## STOOL for LEUKOCYTES TEST

Also known as:

**FECAL NEUTROPHILS TEST  
STOOL WHITE BLOOD CELL TEST  
FECAL LEUKOCYTE TEST**

**Effective Date: Immediately**

### What is new?

**Specimen acceptance criteria will change effective immediately: solid/formed stool will not be processed. Please do not submit formed stool as it will be rejected. There is a financial cost to rejecting inappropriate samples, as well as an impact on the timely processing of other samples.**

### Background:

This test looks for white blood cells in stool. It is used in the diagnosis of inflammatory diarrhea.

This type of diarrhea may be a symptom of an infection caused by bacteria such as shigella, Clostridium difficile, campylobacter, or salmonella. It may also occur in inflammatory bowel disease, such as Crohn's disease or ulcerative colitis. Rarely fecal leukocytes can appear in diarrhea caused by other parasites or viruses, so a negative test result does not rule out a potential problem. Furthermore, 10-15 percent of stool samples with an invasive bacterial pathogen present will test negative for fecal leukocytes.

**The test has generally poor sensitivity and specificity and should be performed only on a diarrheal stool:**

- Numerous small loose or watery stools
- Blood or mucus in the stool

Please contact Dr. Carmen Morales, ph: 204-787-4682, or e-mail [cmorales@dsmanitoba.ca](mailto:cmorales@dsmanitoba.ca) with any questions or concerns

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