

J-140 Measuring Occult Blood in Stool

Purpose

Test for occult blood in feces.

Applies To

Registered Nurses

Licensed Practical/Vocational Nurses

Other (*Identify*): _____

Equipment/Supplies

- Hemocult test - cardboard Hemocult slide and developing solution.
- Hematest - Hematest tablets and Guaiac paper.
- One pair of disposable gloves.
- Paper towel.
- Wooden applicators.

Procedure

1. Wash hands. Refer to Hand Washing procedure.
2. Don clean gloves.
3. Bed bound or ambulatory client.
 - a. Assist the client onto the bedpan/commode/toilet.
 - b. Instruct the client to void before defecating.
 - c. Urine specimens collected in bedpan or commode should be discarded before defecating. Provide the client with a clean bedpan or commode. *Feces should not be mixed with urine or toilet tissue, which interfere with test results.*
4. Assist the client with washing after toileting and place in comfortable position.
5. Take specimen to bathroom or utility room.
6. Using tip of wooden applicator, obtain a small portion of stool and apply to appropriate testing material. *Wooden applicator is used to prevent transfer of bacteria to other objects. A small specimen is sufficient for measuring blood content.*
7. Perform Hemocult slide test:
 - a. Open flap of slide. Apply thin smear of stool on paper in first box.

- b. Obtain second fecal specimen from different portion of stool and apply to second box on slide.
 - c. Close flaps and turn slide over. Open the flap on the reverse side. Apply two drops of Hemocult developing solution to each box.
 - d. Read results within 30 seconds.
 - e. Note color changes. Color reaction fades within 2-3 minutes. Any trace of blue indicates a positive.
 - f. Dispose of test slide in proper container.
8. Perform Hematest:
- a. Place a small amount of stool on guaiac paper.
 - b. Place Hematest tablet on top of stool.
 - c. Apply two to three drops of tap water. Allow water to flow onto guaiac paper.
 - d. Read results within two minutes. Note color of guaiac paper. *Bluish discoloration indicates occult blood (guaiac positive).*
 - e. Dispose of waste in proper container.
9. Wrap wooden applicator in paper towel and discard.
10. Empty and clean bedpan, commode, or specimen hat.
11. Remove gloves and discard equipment as outlined in the Agency Waste Disposal Policy.
12. Wash hands. Refer to Hand Washing procedure.

Documentation Guidelines

Document in the clinical record:

- 1. Results of test.
- 2. Date and time of collection.
- 3. Appearance and odor of stool.
- 4. Discomfort verbalized by the client during procedure.

Related Procedures

None.

Policy History

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| Approval Date | 11/1/2009 |
| Approved By | Anne Tyson, Herman Pippin, Sandra Hill |
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| Approved by | Anne Tyson, Herman Pippin, Sandra Hill |
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