



Eculizumab in Shiga-Toxin producing E. Coli Haemolytic Uraemic Syndrome (ECUSTEC): A Randomised, Double-Blind, Placebo-Controlled Trial

Stool Sample Collection –Instructions for Parents and Participants

Why are we collecting stool samples?

- You or your child have consented to take part in the **ECUSTEC** trial. As part of the trial, we are asking that a stool (poo) sample is collected for the **day 30** trial assessment.

Equipment provided for sample collection

- Specimen tube and spatula

If you are unable to provide a sample prior to the appointment, the research team will also provide you with the following:

- Screw top container for protecting sample
- Sample form (completed by research team) to post with sample
- Freepost packaging for posting sample

How to collect the stool samples

- Please collect the stool sample as close to the date of the 30 day assessment as possible, so that you can bring it to the appointment. If you are unable to collect a sample prior to the assessment, please try to collect the sample within two days following the appointment.
- For children that are toilet trained, it is important that the stool sample does not come into contact with the toilet /potty, toilet water and, as far as possible, with urine. In order to do this, (after the child has urinated) please place something in the toilet to catch the stool, such as an empty plastic food container or potty , or place clean newspaper/ stretch a length of plastic wrap across the toilet bowl and leave a dip in the middle for the stool to fall into.
- For children that still wear nappies the sample can be taken directly from the nappy, but please try to make sure it does not make contact with urine wherever possible.
- Once the stool has been passed, use the spatula to place the sample into the specimen tube. Try to make sure that any parts of the stool which appear bloody, slimy or watery are put into the specimen container. The smallest sample that can be analysed is around 1 to 2 grams (size of a large pea). It is recommended you do not fill the pot over half way, to limit the risk of the sample leaking.
- Replace the specimen tube lid, screw it shut tightly and wipe the outside of the sample pot if necessary.

- Dispose of any stool that remains into the toilet.
- Please wrap any plastic wrap, newspaper or disposable containers used to collect the sample in newspaper, place in a plastic bag, tie it up and put it in your usual dustbin. If a reusable container has been used, such as a potty, please clean this as usual.
- Wash your hands, and the child's hands, thoroughly with soap and warm running water and dry.
- If the sample is obtained prior to the patient's assessment, please just bring the filled specimen tube to the appointment.
- If you collect the sample after the patient's assessment, please place the specimen tube in the protective screw top container.
- Place the screw top container and the sample form into the freepost packaging provided, and seal the envelope.
- The best results are obtained from fresh samples so, ideally the sample should be posted on the same day as it is taken. If this is not possible, please keep the sample as cold as possible until it can be posted. It should be possible to post the sample directly into your nearest post box.
- Please call the research team to let them know that you have posted the sample so as they can keep a record of all samples that are sent to the laboratory as part of the ECUSTEC trial.

If you have any further questions about collecting the stool samples, please do not hesitate to contact your trial doctor or research nurse:

Name of contact:

Contact telephone number:

For any queries about the trial or for further information please contact:

The ECUSTEC trial co-ordinating centre is located at the Birmingham Clinical Trials Unit, College of Medical & Dental Sciences, Institute of Applied Health Research, University of Birmingham, Edgbaston, Birmingham B15 2TT. Tel 0121 415 9132, Fax: 0121 415 9135, Web address: www.birmingham.ac.uk/ECUSTEC