

Collecting a specimen of faeces



Infection control procedures apply

Always wear suitable protective equipment – apron and gloves

- Ensure **privacy and dignity** for the service user
- Explain to the service user what you are about to do and why
- Encourage them to evacuate their bowel into a bedpan or commode
- Make sure they are comfortable and safe before leaving them to evacuate
- After the person's bowels have moved assist them to clean themselves if appropriate
- Remove and cover the receptacle and take it to the bathroom
- Remove the lid of the correct specimen container
- Using the spatula built into the underneath of the container lid, remove a specimen of faeces into the spatula
- Without touching the sides of the specimen container, return the lid to the container so the spatula and specimen are inside the container
- Secure lid properly
- Immediately, label the container properly
- Place it in the appropriate specimen bag and seal it
- Send it to the appropriate department e.g. GP Surgery or by post directly to the named hospital department
- Make sure the bedpan, commode etc. is properly cleaned and stored in the appropriate place
- Wash your hands and dispose of your PPE'S appropriately
- Write up your notes in the support plan