

## PATIENT INSTRUCTIONS FOR OUTPATIENT OCCULT BLOOD STOOL COLLECTION

Your physician has ordered Occult Blood screening on fecal (stool) specimens. Since bleeding from gastrointestinal lesions may be intermittent, **this test requires the collection of three separate fecal specimens from three consecutive bowel movements** closely spaced in time (usually on three separate days.) To further increase the probability of detecting occult blood in stool, separate samples should be taken from two different sections of each fecal specimen if possible.

You have been given three separate collection cards, wooden applicator sticks, and a biohazard bag for transport.

The Hemoccult test requires only a small fecal sample. Fecal samples should not be collected if obvious rectal bleeding from hemorrhoids is present. Pre-menopausal women should avoid collecting fecal samples during the first three days after a menstrual period.

### Collection instructions:

- 1. Label each card with patient name and date of collection.**
- 2. Collect a small fecal sample on one end of the applicator. Apply a thin smear within testing square A under the front tab cover of the Hemoccult test slide. Reuse the applicator to obtain a second sample from a different part of the stool. Apply a thin smear within square B on the test slide.**
- 3. Close the cover. Discard the applicator stick.**
- 4. Repeat steps 2 and 3 for the second and third stool collections.**

Once all three collections are completed, place the cards in the biohazard bag, place your physician order in the side pocket of the bag, and return all to Avera McKenna Laboratory for testing.