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**Lab Dept:** Urine/Stool

**Test Name:** PH, STOOL

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***General Information***

**Lab Order Codes:** FPHFL

**Synonyms:** Stool pH; Feces pH

**CPT Codes:** 83986 – pH, body fluid, except blood

**Test Includes:** Determination of stool pH by indicator strip or pH meter.

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***Logistics***

**Lab Testing Sections:** Urine/Stool - Sendouts

**Referred to:** Mayo Medical Laboratories forward to ARUP (FPHFL/0020518)

**Phone Numbers:** MIN Lab: 612-813-5866

STP Lab: 651-220-6555

**Test Availability:** Daily, 24 hours

**Turnaround Time:** 3 – 7 days

**Special Instructions:** Requisition must state **date/time of collection**.

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***Specimen***

**Specimen Type:** Fresh random liquid stool

**Container:** Plastic leakproof container

**Volume:** 1 gram or 1 mL stool

<b>Collection:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collect stool in a clean, dry bedpan or on a newspaper over the toilet. Transfer specimen to a plastic, leakproof container. <b>Do not</b> overfill or contaminate the outside of the container.</li> <li>• Pediatric patients with severe diarrhea may use a U-bag collection system. Place the bag over the anal area in an attempt to retrieve the specimen before it soaks into the diaper. The diaper can also be reversed with the plastic side toward the skin to prevent the specimen from soaking into the diaper. Transfer specimen into a plastic, leakproof container.</li> </ul> <p><b>Offsite collection:</b> Freeze specimen immediately and send frozen.</p>
<b>Transport/Storage:</b>	Specimen must be received in the laboratory within 1 hour of collection. <b>Do not</b> send specimen through the pneumatic tube.
<b>Special Processing:</b>	Lab Staff: Separate specimen containers must be submitted to the reference lab when multiple tests are ordered. Label each container appropriately. Freeze all specimens and forward promptly.
<b>Patient Preparation:</b>	Barium procedures and laxatives should be avoided for 1 week prior to collection of the specimen.
<b>Sample Rejection:</b>	<p><b>No diapers accepted.</b> Improperly labeled specimen; specimen contaminated with urine and/or water; leaking container; insufficient volume; specimen containing interfering substances such as castor oil, bismuth, Metamucil®, barium, Vaseline®, or other cream contaminants. Specimens collected in media or preservatives.</p> <p>If an unacceptable specimen is received, the physician or nursing station will be notified and another specimen will be requested before the specimen is discarded.</p>

### ***Interpretive***

<b>Reference Range:</b>	5.0 – 8.5
<b>Critical Values:</b>	N/A
<b>Limitations:</b>	N/A
<b>Methodology:</b>	Quantitative pH Indicator strips or pH meter
<b>References:</b>	<a href="#">Mayo Medical Laboratories</a> November 2016 <a href="#">ARUP Laboratories</a> November 2016
<b>Updates:</b>	7/9/2014: Added Offsite collection info. 11/15/2016: Testing no longer performed at Children’s, note increase in turnaround time.