



DIVISION OF CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY AND TOXICOLOGY
DEPARTMENT OF PEDIATRICS

COLLECTING A MECONIUM SAMPLE FROM A NEWBORN

Meconium is ideally collected from the first one or two bowel movements of the neonate during the first twenty-four hours post-partum. Samples collected beyond the first twenty-four hours may still in fact contain meconium, and we *do* accept them and label them accordingly, but the later the collection occurs increases the chance that post-natally digested materials are present, which can alter the interpretation of the results.

Step 1. Collect as much meconium as possible; approximately 10 mL is ideal. (An orange-top specimen collection container is ideal)

Step 2. Freeze the sample if possible before shipping.

Step 3. Complete the NEONATAL HAIR & MECONIUM TOXICOLOGY REQUISITION form or a letter containing the following information:

- Why is intrauterine drug exposure suspected?
- Is maternal history known?
- Did the newborn have any symptoms characteristic of drug exposure before birth? What were they?
- Which drugs should we test for?
- Where should the results be sent?
- Where should the invoice be sent?

Step 4. Ship the sample on dry ice to: Motherisk Laboratory
Hospital for Sick Children
555 University Avenue
Toronto, Ontario, M5G 1X8

Please Note: It is ***absolutely essential that the following information be included*** on a neonatal hair or meconium analysis requisition: -ordering physician
-date of birth
-sample collection date and time

Please specify the drugs you wish to test for. If you do not specify the drugs to be tested, we will test for cocaine/benzoylcegonine, opiates, and cannabinoids only at a cost of \$175.00. Additional drugs of interest you may want to consider requesting are amphetamine and methamphetamine.

If you intend a third party (i.e. Child Services) to receive meconium or neonatal hair test results or be responsible for payment, this **MUST** be specified on the requisition form. The agency, social worker, and contact information (i.e. phone/fax#/address) must be included on the requisition; otherwise we will bill and send results to the ordering institution.

You can contact us at 416-813-5780 or hairtest@sickkids.ca if you have any questions or concerns