



# Skills Modules 3.0 Checklist: Specimen Collection

## Obtaining Occult Blood Specimen

**INSTRUCTIONS:** Use the following checklist to evaluate competency in completing this skill. Select Satisfactory (S) or Unsatisfactory (U) for each step and provide comments as needed.

\*Document the relevant information (assessment findings, pharmacological and nonpharmacological interventions) in the client's medical record.

### Beginning Steps

STEP	S	U	EVALUATOR'S COMMENTS
Verify prescription for occult blood.			
Gather necessary equipment.			
*Introduce yourself to the client.			
*Provide privacy as needed.			
*Perform hand hygiene and put on appropriate PPE if indicated.			
*Verify client identification.			

STEP	S	U	EVALUATOR'S COMMENTS
*Determine whether the client has allergies.			
*Provide client education.			
Apply clean gloves.			

## Stool Specimen

STEP	S	U	EVALUATOR'S COMMENTS
Using a wooden applicator, obtain two small samples of stool, making sure they are not contaminated with urine or toilet tissue.			
When using hemoccult slide, place one sample on the first box and the second on the second box. Apply in a thin layer.			
Wrap the wooden applicator in a paper towel prior to disposing of it in the appropriate receptacle.			
Close the flap on the slide and turn it over.			
Open the cardboard flap and apply two drops of the developing solution to each box on the guaiac paper and on the control box.			
Wait 30 to 60 seconds then interpret the color of the guaiac paper. A blue color is indicative of a positive result or the presence of stool occult blood.			

## Gastric Contents

STEP	S	U	EVALUATOR'S COMMENTS
Obtain a sample from an NG or emesis, with a wooden applicator.			
Open the flap of the gastroccult slide.			
Apply one drop of gastric contents to test area.			
Apply 2 drops of developer on the sample and 1 drop on the control box.			
Interpret results after 60 seconds.			

## Concluding Steps

STEP	S	U	EVALUATOR'S COMMENTS
Dispose of the test slide in the appropriate receptacle.			
Discard gloves and perform hand hygiene.			
*Ensure that the client is in a safe position prior to leaving the room and has the call light within reach.			

## References

Potter, P. A., Perry, A. G., Stockert, P., & Hall, A. (2017). *Fundamentals of nursing* (9th ed.). St. Louis, MO: Elsevier.