

**OREGON DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS**  
**Operations Division**  
**Health Services Section Policy and Procedure #P-D-04.8**

SUBJECT: GUAIAC / OCCULT BLOOD

POLICY: The guaiac test slide is a method for detecting fecal occult blood and is performed as a preliminary diagnostic tool. (This test may also be performed on emesis.) Occult blood tests take place with three consecutive specimens when ordered.

REFERENCE: NCCHC Standard P-D-04

PROCEDURE:

A. Assemble the following equipment:

- Hemoccult slides
- Hemoccult developer
- Applicator sticks
- Specimen container
- Latex gloves (must be worn with all contact with body fluid)

B. Whenever possible the patient should be placed on the following food regimen 48 to 72 hours prior to testing.

1. Well-cooked pork, poultry, and fish (eliminate red meats, including processed meats).
2. Any cooked fruits and vegetables.
3. High fiber foods like whole wheat bread, bran cereals, popcorn, etc.

C. Drugs may alter the test results; such as iron replacement therapy may cause a false positive, while high doses of vitamin C may cause a false negative. Refer to product instruction booklet for further information.

D. Provide the patient a specimen container, which has been labeled with the patient's name and SID number. Instruct patient to return to the Health Services area with the specimen.

E. Application of the specimen to the Guaiac test slide may be performed by health care staff or the patient.

## **Guaiaac/Occult Blood**

- F. Collect a small sample on one end of the applicator stick, apply a thin smear inside box A of the hemocult slide. Obtain a second sample from a different portion of the specimen and apply to box B.
- G. Close the cover of the slide. Allow adequate time for the specimen to penetrate the test paper.
- H. To develop the slide, open the flap in the back of the slide and apply two drops of developer to the guaiac paper directly over each smear.
- I. Read results within 60 seconds. Any trace of blue on or around the edges of the smear is considered positive for occult blood.
- J. Apply one drop of developer to each of the performance monitor areas of the slide. If the slide and developer are functional, a blue color will appear in the positive area, while no blue will appear in the negative area. Always develop the specimen before checking the performance monitor areas.
- K. Provide the patient another specimen container for the next test until three tests are completed unless otherwise ordered by the practitioner.
- L. Record results in progress notes in the patient's health care record.

Effective Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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