

HELICOBACTER PYLORI ANTIGEN TEST (STOOL)

I. GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

Helicobacter pylori has been implicated as the cause in most cases of gastric and duodenal ulcers in adults. In pediatrics, there is a strong association between *H. pylori* infection and chronic active gastritis and, less frequently, duodenal ulcer disease. There is also an association between recurrent abdominal pain and *H. pylori* gastritis in children. The *H. pylori* Stool Antigen (HPSA) test is a non-invasive direct method to detect the presence of *H. pylori* in the gastrointestinal tract. HPSA can be used to confirm the presence of *H. pylori* in a patient with a positive IgG serology result, or as a primary test in place of serology to rule out the presence of *H. pylori*. It can also be used as a test of cure following completion of therapy.

II. SPECIMEN COLLECTION

Fresh, unpreserved stool is required for the HPSA test. Collect specimen in an airtight transport container and refrigerate until transport to Laboratory Services.