

Urine Collection for Culture

A good urine sample is essential to diagnose infection. The germs and bacteria in urine need to be tested-not those on hands or genitals. These instructions must be followed carefully to collect the urine in a manner that will not contaminate the sample with other organisms.

VOIDED URINE COLLECTION:

- Thoroughly wash hands with soap and water and dry them on a clean towel.
- Open sterile container and towelettes. Do not touch the rim, inside, or lid of cup. **DO NOT COLLECT FROM BEDPAN OR NONSTERILE COLLECTION AID.**
- Clean urethral area carefully before collecting sample, following the guidelines below for male or female patients:

Female Patients:

- With the forefingers of one hand, spread the outer folds of the labia and keep them apart until the urine has been collected.
- With the other hand, firmly wipe the first towelette with one stroke from front to back on one side of the fold and discard.
- With the second towelette, wipe the other side from front to back with one stroke and discard.
- With the third towelette, wipe the center area from front to back with one stroke and discard.
- Collect midstream urine in a sterile container.
- Place the lid on the container securely.
- Label the sample with the patient name. Refrigerate if the sample will not be delivered within one hour or place in gray top culture tube.

Male Patients:

- Clean the urethral opening of the penis, retracting the foreskin if uncircumcised; carefully wipe from front to back with the cleaning materials provided. Use a cleaning pad only once and discard.
- Allow some of the first part of the urine to pass directly into toilet or bedpan.
- Pass urine into the sterile container until it is no more than half full.
- Place the lid on the container securely.

- Label the sample with the patient name. Refrigerate if the sample will not be delivered to the laboratory within one hour or place in gray top culture tube.

CATHETERIZED SAMPLES: IN/OUT CATHETERIZATION

Male Patients:

- Clean the urethral area carefully.
- Clean the urethral opening of the penis, retracting the foreskin if uncircumcised, carefully from front to back.

Female Patients:

- Clean the urethral area carefully
- Spread open the labial folds. Clean the vaginal area from front to back
- Pass the catheter into the bladder using a sterile technique.
- Discard the first 15-20 ml of urine that passes through the mouth of the catheter.
- Collect the urine in a sterile sample cup.
- Place the lid on the container securely.
- Label the sample with the patient name. Refrigerate if the sample will not be delivered to the lab within one hour or place in gray top culture tube

CATHETERIZED SAMPLES: INDWELLING CATHETERS

Do not use urine from the bedside catheter bag.

- Do not disconnect the catheter from the bag to collect.
- Clean the sample port carefully with a 70% alcohol wipe.
- Insert a sterile 21 gauge needle with a syringe into the sample port to aspirate sample.
- Transfer the urine into a sterile cup without touching the rim or inside surfaces of the container.
- Place the lid on the container securely.
- Label the sample with the patient name. Refrigerate the sample if will not be delivered to the lab within one hour or place in gray top culture tube.