

SPECIMEN COLLECTION: URINE

PRINCIPLE

This instruction outlines the proper collection techniques of urine samples used for UTI/STI laboratory testing.

POLICIES

The pre-analytical phase of urine examination is critical in specimen quality and result outcome. It is up to the staff collecting the specimen to correctly instruct the patient on collection requirements, correctly label the specimen, and submit the specimen within a timely manner for processing. To obtain accurate patient results, it is of utmost importance that these guidelines are adhered to.

Specimens must be maintained at 2-8°C for shipping and transport and are stable for up to 4 days for UTI specimens and eight days for STI specimens.

Patient specimens and all materials that come in contact with them should be handled as potentially infectious. Wear appropriate PPE when handling patient specimens.

EQUIPMENT

1. Collection containers must be clean and made of inert disposable plastic.
2. Do not reuse containers. Containers should generally have a capacity of 50 to 100 ml with a round opening of at least 2 inches. Smaller, specialized containers are used for pediatric specimens.
3. Unpreserved urine specimens should be collected and transported in a BD Urinalysis Plus Tube, Reference # 364981, or an equivalent collection container.
4. The container must have a label that will adhere under refrigeration. The label must include the patient's name, date of birth, date and time of the specimen collected, and specimen type. Place labels on the container, not on the lid.

LABELING

After correctly identifying the patient using two patient identifiers, all urine specimens must be labeled with the following information:

1. Patient's First and Last Name
2. Patient's Date of Birth
3. Date of Collection
4. Time of Collection
5. Method of Collection and Source:
6. Initials of Collecting Individual

Labels must be placed on the body of the specimen container. Specimens with labels placed on lids will be rejected as lids can be easily removed, leaving the specimen unidentified.

RANDOM SPECIMEN

Collect urine in a container referenced in the equipment section of this policy. Properly label the specimen following the guidelines above.

CLEAN CATCH-MIDSTREAM SPECIMEN

1. Direct the patient to wash and dry his/her hands with soap and warm water.
2. For males:
 - a) Instruct the uncircumcised patient to withdraw the foreskin.
 - b) With antiseptic wipes or equivalent, cleanse the glans beginning at the urethra and working away from it.
 - c) Rinse cleansed area beginning at the urethra and working away from it with two successive water-soaked cotton balls, wiping from front to back.
 - d) Have the patient begin urinating, pass the first portion of urine into the toilet, and catch the mid-portion of the urine in the appropriate container.
 - e) The rest of the urine is passed into the toilet.
 - f) Do not touch the top or the inside of the container with your hands or any body part at any time.
 - g) Secure the lid on the container.
3. For females:
 - a) Instruct the female patient to spread the labia with the fingers of one hand and use the other hand to clean the area.
 - b) With antiseptic wipes or equivalent, cleanse the area at the front edge of the labia and work backward toward the anal area. Repeat this cleansing procedure twice more using a separate sterile soapy cotton ball or equivalent.
 - c) Rinse cleansed area similarly with two successive water-soaked cotton balls. Always wipe from front to back.
 - d) Have the patient begin urinating, pass the first portion of urine into the toilet, and catch the midportion of the urine in the appropriate container.
 - e) The rest of the urine is passed into the toilet.
 - f) Do not touch the top or the inside of the container with your hands or any body part at any time.
 - g) Secure the lid on the container.

NOTE: FOR ANY LEAKING CONTAINER, THE SPECIMEN WILL BE REJECTED. THE PATIENT WILL BE REQUESTED TO RE-COLLECT THE SPECIMEN AFTER RECEIVING ADDITIONAL INSTRUCTIONS REGARDING COLLECTION AND/OR TRANSPORT.