

Urine specimens submitted for urine culture at LifeLabs must be preserved in boric acid prior to transport. Preserving urine in boric acid eliminates bacterial overgrowth of normal flora, leading to more accurate results. This document outlines the procedure for preserving urine culture specimens in boric acid.

**Important:** Specimens submitted in boric acid preservative are not suitable for urinalysis. If urinalysis is also required, the remaining specimen must be submitted in the original container.

## Instructions

Step		Action						
1	Collect Urine Specimen	Collect a mid-stream urine specimen as per <i>Patient Instructions – Urine for C&amp;S or TB/AFB</i> ( <a href="http://www.LifeLabs.com">www.LifeLabs.com</a> ).						
		Label the container with the patient's full name and date of birth or PHN.						
2	Pour off urine specimen into preservative tube	Immediately pour the specimen into the boric acid preservative tube to about half an inch (1 cm) from the top.  – If urine volume is <5 mL, do not pour off. Keep in the orange top container and refrigerate.						
		Label the preservative tube with the patient's full name and date of birth or PHN.  <i>See Patient Identification and Sample Labeling Instructions</i> ( <a href="http://www.LifeLabs.com">www.LifeLabs.com</a> )						
		Put the blue cap on the preservative tube tightly. There is no need to shake or mix the tube; the preservative tablet will dissolve by itself.						
3	Package and transport specimen(s)	If urinalysis is also ordered, the orange top container <b>and</b> the preservative tube must be packaged and sent to the lab for testing.						
		Package as per <i>Healthcare Provider Specimen Packaging Instructions</i> ( <a href="http://www.LifeLabs.com">www.LifeLabs.com</a> )						
		<table><tr><th>If...</th><th>Then...</th></tr><tr><td>Urine is preserved in boric acid</td><td>Store refrigerated or room temperature. Transport to the testing lab within 72 hours</td></tr><tr><td>Urine is in orange top container</td><td>Store refrigerated. Transport to the testing lab within 24 hours.</td></tr></table>	If...	Then...	Urine is preserved in boric acid	Store refrigerated or room temperature. Transport to the testing lab within 72 hours	Urine is in orange top container	Store refrigerated. Transport to the testing lab within 24 hours.
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