

COLLECTION OF URINE FOR CULTURE

Collection of Specimens for Microbiology

Proper transport and storage of specimens are prerequisites for reliable culture results.

Ensure that the requisition and specimen are labeled with:

- patient's full name
- date of birth or health card number
- **source of specimen**
- date of collection
- time of collection




The examination requested should be specified on the requisition.

Information concerning anti-microbial therapy or allergy, pregnancy, clinical diagnosis, or underlying disease should also be noted.

Specimens should be transported promptly to LifeLabs Laboratory. Delays to processing, beyond the recommended acceptable holding times, will compromise culture results.

All specimens and body fluids are considered potentially hazardous. They should be treated as if capable of causing disease. Clinical information or patient history as provided by the physician determines the scope of the laboratory investigation by ensuring that all laboratory services are relevant or adequate for each clinical situation.

Microbiology Collection Containers:

		
Sterile Container (90 mL)	Urine Preservative/ Boric Acid (NCS) Tube	Pediatric Urine Collector

For TB Culture

- Collect at least 40 mL catheter or midstream first morning urine specimens in a sterile container for three consecutive days. Do not pool specimens.
- Store refrigerated at 2-8°C and submit each specimen to the PHL laboratory with a completed PHL requisition.

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Urine for Culture

Urines for culture should be collected as described below in a sterile 90 mL container.

The patient's full name, date of birth or health card number, source of specimen and date and time of collection should be specified on the requisition **and** specimen container. Also include any information concerning pregnancy or antibiotic drug allergies on the requisition.

Collection of Midstream Urine Samples

Early morning urine specimens are preferred, although urine collected at other times of the day are acceptable. A “mid-stream clean catch” urine sample is necessary for culture so that any bacteria present around the urethra and on the hands do not contaminate the specimen.

- Use a sterile container for collection.
- Complete the information requested on the container label- your full name, date of birth or health card number, source of specimen and date and time of collection.
- Wash and dry your hands thoroughly.
- Remove the container lid and set it aside. Do not touch inner surfaces of container.
- Wash your urogenital area (“lower parts”) with the towelette provided.
 - Women: wipe from front to back between the folds of skin.
 - Men: retract the foreskin (if un-circumcised), and clean the glans (head of the penis).
- Pass a small amount of urine into the toilet (women: hold skin folds apart) and then midway through urination, urinate into the container. The container should only be 1/2 to 2/3 full.
- Replace the lid and tighten firmly.
- Wash and dry your hands thoroughly.
- **Immediately refrigerate** the specimen and **submit to the laboratory WITHIN 24 hours of collection** (maintain at 2-8 °C when transporting).
- If transportation to the laboratory is expected to go beyond 24 hours, transfer 10 mL of urine into an NCS tube with boric acid preservative (#29323).
Maintain preserved urine (NCS tube) at room temperature and submit to the laboratory WITHIN 72 hours of collection.
- Pediatric urine collection kits are also available.

Collection of Midstream Urine Samples: Limitations of Urine Preservatives

1. Boric acid cannot be used to preserve a urine specimen for chemical urinalysis
2. If <5mL of urine is added to the NCS tube, some organisms may not survive
3. Occasionally, uropathogens may be inhibited by boric acid