

**HACKETTSTOWN REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER  
LABORATORY POLICY MANUAL  
URINE SPECIMEN COLLECTION AND ACCEPTABILITY GUIDELINES**

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**Effective Date: September, 2009**

**Cross Referenced:**

**Reviewed Date: 6/1/2012**

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**Policy No: SC 100.0**

**Origin: Special Collections**

**Authority: Laboratory Director**

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**SPECIMEN TYPES:**

**FIRST MORNING:** This is the specimen of choice for screening purposes. It consists of urine accumulated in the bladder over an eight-hour period, while in a recumbent position, and is generally the most concentrated urine specimen of the day.

**RANDOM:** A single urine void collected at any time throughout the day or night.

**TIMED:** Collected over a specified period of time or at a specified time in relation to another activity (ex: 3 hour GTT).

**MIDSTREAM (clean catch):** Generally collected for intended or possible use in microbiology for culturing. Collected after thorough cleansing of genital area, to avoid contamination of specimen with skin bacteria.

**CATHETER:** Collected by nursing from an indwelling catheter.

**SUPRAPUBIC:** Aspirated directly from the bladder via syringe.

**COLLECTION PROCEDURES:**

**URINE CULTURE:**

1. Midstream or clean-catch specimen is the best specimen for a culture.
2. Give the patient a labeled sterile screw top container and 2-3 sterile towelettes. Have them verify the name on the container by spelling out their name.
3. Instruct the patient to thoroughly clean the genital area from the center out, 3 times each with a clean towelette.
4. While holding the skin folds away from the urine stream, begin to void first into the toilet, then catch approximately ½ cup full of urine in the container. Void the remainder into the toilet. Carefully screw the lid back onto the container.
5. Volume requirement is at least 1-2cc.
6. Specimen should be stored at 2-6°C, if not brought to the laboratory immediately. This is necessary to prevent multiplication of bacteria.
7. Inquire if the patient is on antibiotics and note on label and in Cerner comment if yes.
8. Record the date and time collected.

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**ROUTINE URINALYSIS:**

1. The procedure is similar to that of the culture, but the thoroughness of the genital cleansing is not as stringent. The volume requirement is approximately 12cc to be quantitatively valid for microscopic testing.
2. Record the date and time collected.
3. Specimen should not be held at room temperature for more than two hours before testing. If more than a two-hour delay is anticipated, the specimen should be refrigerated at 2-6°C until delivery to the laboratory.

**SPECIMEN ACCEPTABILITY GUIDELINES:**

1. Specimen for routine urinalysis may be rejected for testing if:
  - a. The information on the specimen label does not match that on the specimen requisition.
  - b. If more than two hours have elapsed from time of collection to delivery and confirmation of refrigeration cannot be obtained.
  - c. The specimen is significantly contaminated with foreign matter such as pubic hair, talc or debris from an unwashed container.
2. Specimen for culture testing must meet the above criteria with the exception that the specimen must not have been held at room temperature for more than 1 hour before delivery to the laboratory.

**NOTE:** Before any specimen is rejected, the originating department is to be consulted. In some cases, the patient may be virtually incontinent or a pediatric patient and the specimen may not be replaceable. If the specimen is rejected notify the floor and document on the specimen rejection log. Request recollection (if possible) and document in computer.

**REFERENCE:**

**CLSI Urinalysis; Approved Guideline – Third Edition. GP16-A3. Vol.29 No.4**