

## Urine Collection

### **Urinalysis, Routine, Pregnancy Tests, and Random Specimens for Urine Chemistries**

Give patient a non-sterile plastic cup for collecting urine specimen. Write patient's name on cup. Refrigerate specimen until delivery to laboratory. Urine can be refrigerated for up to 8 hours.

### **Culture, Urine; Urinalysis, Comprehensive Tests - Collection Using VACUTAINER® Urine C&S Transport Kits**

**Note:** VACUTAINERS® cannot be used for routine urinalysis testing; they are used for urine cultures only.

- Instruct patient to clean urinary area with a soap solution (eg, saturate 4X4 gauze with pHisoHex® and warm water).
  - Instruct patient to clean from front to back.
  - After cleansing, patient should void a small amount into the toilet and then collect the midstream specimen into a urine cup, ending collection by voiding into toilet.
  - Once patient returns specimen to nurse, VACUTAINER® Urine C&S Transport Kit tube should be collected as follows:
    - Open pouch and remove transfer device and tube (follow directions on pouch).
    - Submerge tip of transfer device to bottom of urine container.
    - Place VACUTAINER® brand tube in holder portion of transfer device. Push tube all the way into holder.
    - Hold into position until urine stops flowing into tube. Approximately 5 mL of urine will be collected. Fill to minimum mark on tube.
    - Remove tube from transfer device. Lift device, allow urine to drain out of tip. Put device in pouch and discard.
    - Shake tube vigorously. Label both urine cup and tube, and send to laboratory.
- Note:** Urine cup specimen refrigerated for up to 8 hours is acceptable for routine urinalysis. VACUTAINERS® are left at room temperature, and are suitable for culture (only) for up to 48 hours. Both urine cup and VACUTAINER® must be submitted if orders are for #RCIF “Urinalysis, Routine, Culture if indicated” or #CCIF “Urinalysis, Comprehensive, Culture if indicated.”

### **Pediatric Urine Collections**

U-Bags are available for collection of urine specimens for babies. Instructions are included in packet for attaching the U-Bag to the diaper area. This specimen can be used for routine urinalysis and/or urine cultures.

### **24 Hour Urine Collections**

- Containers
  - Twenty-four hour urine specimen containers may be obtained from the laboratory.
- Patient Instructions
  - Give patient a 24 hour urine collection sheet and explain procedure to patient, being sure to warn them if acid has been added. Check to make sure that urine jug(s) is properly labeled (label should indicate any preservatives that have been added to container) and that a “Caution” sticker has been applied to jug if acid was added. Highlight “Caution” section of sheet if acid has been added and highlight name of tests ordered so that patient can avoid foods or drugs that might interfere with results.
- Collection of 24 Hour Urine Specimen
  - 24-hour specimen collection must be started in the morning. Have patient void and discard **first-morning** specimen and note time. This time is start of collection. Collect all urine for the next 24 hours, including the next morning specimen. The final collection should be at same time that urine collection was started.
- Storage
  - Store 24 hour urine container in refrigerator during collection period.
- Ordering Tests on 24 Hour Urine Specimen
  - For inpatients, a computer generated laboratory requisition or down time form must accompany specimen to laboratory. For outpatients, laboratory clerk will order tests in computer and generate labels based upon doctor's order brought in by outpatient.
- Multiple Tests Ordered on a 24 Hour Urine
  - It may be necessary to dispense multiple urine containers if there are different preservative requirements for tests ordered. If this is the case, amount of preservative must be adjusted accordingly (ie, oxalate requires 30 mL of 6N HCl, but if 2 containers are needed add only 15 mL of 6N HCl to 1 container). The container must be labeled identifying which preservative and amount of preservative were added. In addition, proper patient identification must be on label. When dispensing multiple containers it will be necessary for patient to split specimens after each collection. Please instruct patient that EACH TIME he or she voids urine must be divided evenly as possible among all containers. All urines should be refrigerated during 24-hour collection.