

Specimen Types:

- Clean catch, midstream, catheter, supra pubic urine, etc.

Unacceptable Specimens:

- Specimens received in non-sterile or leaking containers.
- Specimens taken from previously used bedpans or specimen hats or urinals.
- Delayed transport of unpreserved, unrefrigerated specimens to Laboratory (greater than 1 hour). Unpreserved specimens must be refrigerated, if not plated within 2 hours.
- Specimens taken from bedpans or urinals.
- Urine collected with the Urine Collection kit not filled to the minimum volume line or not received within 48 hours.

Materials Needed:

1. On-site collection - use a sterile screw cap container that may be sent through the tube system.
2. Off-site collection - use collection kit with preservative (obtain from [North Memorial Health Laboratory](#))
3. For infants – you will also need a urine collector. Instructions on the next page.
4. For catheter and supra pubic specimens – you may also need a sterile syringe and needle.

Specimen Collection:

Midstream Urine Specimens:

1. Instruct patient to clean his/her urinary meatus.	
For Male:	For Female:
a. Wash hands	a. Wash hands
b. Cleanse end of penis with soap and water or towelette.	b. Spread labia minora with non-dominant hand.
c. Initiate urine stream.	c. Initiate urine stream. Keep stationary. Hold labia open throughout the voiding process.
d. After single stream achieved, pass specimen bottle into stream and obtain urine sample.	
2. To prevent contamination of specimen with skin flora, instruct the patient to remove the bottle before the flow of urine stops and before releasing the labia or penis.	
3. Screw cap on tightly.	
4. Label specimen as midstream urine and send to Lab.	

Close Urinary Drainage System Specimen:

1. Explain the procedure and the rationale for the procedure to the patient.
2. Wash your hands.
3. Wipe the aspiration port of the drainage tubing with the anti-microbial swab.
4. Insert the needle into the aspiration port. Allow urine to accumulate in the tubing (2 mL of urine is sufficient for a specimen).
5. Aspirate the urine sample by gently pulling back on the syringe plunger and remove the needle.
6. Wipe the aspiration port with the anti-microbial swab.
7. Empty the syringe into the sterile urine container.
8. Label specimen and send to Lab. Refrigerate specimen until transported.

Specimen from Infant or Child:

1. Cleanse and dry child's perineum	
2. Remove paper from adhesive on urine collector.	
For Male: Place opening of the collector over the child's penis and scrotum.	For Female: Place the opening of the collector over the child's urinary meatus.

4. Place a diaper on the child to help hold the collector in place.
5. Restrain an active child, if necessary.
6. Check the collector every 15 minutes until a specimen is obtained.
7. Remove the collector and place a clean diaper on the child.
8. Using aseptic technique, transfer urine sample from collector to sterile screw cap container.
9. Label specimen and send to Lab. Refrigerate specimen until transported.

Use of Urine Collection Kits:

Recommended for the collection of all outpatient specimens or off-site collection.

1. Collect specimen following instruction above. Place specimen in the sterile container with blue lid.
2. Peel back the protective safety label on the blue lid. Push the vacutainer tube provided into the recessed channel in cup lid. Hold until flow stops.
Note: Tube must be filled to the minimum volume line.
3. Remove tube and shake to dissolve preservative. Label tube and send tube to [North Memorial Health Laboratory](#). Specimen is stable for 48 hours at room temperature.
Note: The urine container with the blue lid must be disposed of in an impermeable container due to the needle attached to the lid.

Transport and Ordering:

1. All unpreserved specimens must be refrigerated or transported to the Laboratory within 1 hour of collection.
2. Specimens placed into a urine preservative tube are stable for 48 hours at room temperature. However, refrigeration and prompt delivery are still best.
3. Enter the appropriate source of clean catch, midstream, catheter, supra pubic, etc. If no source is listed the Microbiology Lab will work up the specimen like a midstream.

Notes:

- › Suprapubic aspiration is not a routine technique and is best performed by an experienced physician. Suprapubic specimens are acceptable for anaerobic culture, so use an anaerobic transport vial, (BBL Port-A-Cul vial) – See Anaerobic culture procedure to ensure recovery of these organisms.