

WINTER 2015

Lab Link

THE NEWSLETTER OF MAIN LINE HEALTH LABORATORIES



Ordering, Collecting, Labeling and Preparing Specimens for Urinalysis and Urine Culture

Routine Urinalysis

Routine urinalysis, typically used for screening, includes the examination of the physical and chemical characteristics of urine. A routine urinalysis may also include a microscopic examination if indicated. Substances of abuse are not included.

Routine Urinalysis, on the Main Line Health Lab form, is usually found under the URINALYSIS heading of a MLHL requisition:

☐ **URINALYSIS, RT UMAC 81003**

Specimen Collection and Preparation

Use the BD Vacutainer® Urinalysis Kit #364989 cup plus conical speckled urine tube provided by Main Line Health Laboratories.



Have the patient void directly into the collection cup. First morning specimens are preferred. Securely close the cup with the blue lid when finished. Peel the yellow label off the top and push the yellow stopper of the conical tube down onto the needle until it stops. Allow the tube to fill completely.

Label the tube with the patient's complete first and last name and



date of birth. Do not label tubes prior to collection.

Place the tube in a biohazard specimen bag with the requisition.

Do not send the collection cup.

Discard the cup in an appropriate biohazard container.

Urine Culture

A bacterial urine culture is ordered to establish the probable etiology of a presumed urinary tract infection (UTI). It is common practice to do a urinalysis prior

to or, in conjunction with, a urine culture. A urine culture may also be used as part of the evaluation and management of another related condition.

Urine Culture, on the Main Line Health Lab form, is usually found under the MICROBIOLOGY heading of a MLHL requisition:

☐ **URINE CULTURE UC 87086**

Or, to order a Urinalysis and Urine Culture:

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☐ **UA w/ UR CULT & SENS UMAC & UC 81003, 87086**

Urinalysis with Reflex culture is an option, and typically found under the URINE heading of a MLHL requisition :



☐ **UA W/ REFLEX CULT UCU 81003**

By ordering Urinalysis with Reflex Culture, a bacterial urine culture will be performed if the routine urinalysis yields positive results for leukocyte esterase or nitrite tests. This option should be ordered when the clinical probability of UTI is low. If UTI is strongly suspected, a Urine Culture should be ordered.

Urine Culture Specimen Collection and Preparation

Use the BD Vacutainer® Urine Complete Cup Kit #364956 provided by Main Line Health Laboratories.

Clean Catch: Patients should first wash their hands, and then cleanse their genital area with the towlette included in the kit. The patient should begin urinating into the toilet and, touching only the outside

of the collection cup, bring the cup into the stream, fill halfway. Securely close the cup with the blue lid when finished.

Obtain the cup from the patient, peel the yellow label off the top and push the stopper of the grey top tube down onto the needle until it stops. Allow the tube to fill completely. Gently invert several times. If a **Routine Urinalysis** or **UA with Reflex Culture** is being ordered, fill the speckled yellow/red top conical tube, also, in the same manner.

Label the tube(s) with the patient's complete first and last name and date of birth. Do not label tubes prior to collection.

Place the tube(s) in a biohazard specimen bag with the requisition. **Do not send the collection cup.** Discard the cup in an appropriate biohazard container.

Catheterized Patients:




There should be a port at the end of the catheter where the tubing attaches to the catheter bag. Wipe with alcohol and, with a needle and syringe, insert the needle into the port and withdraw 10cc-20cc or so.

Do NOT collect urine from the bag.

You can also disconnect the catheter from the tubing and extract a sample, but this increases infection risk. If so, get a urine cup from the kit, wipe the entire area where the catheter meets the tubing with alcohol, put the catheter into the container, and obtain about 10cc. When you reconnect, be very careful not to touch the inside of the catheter. This line runs straight into the person's bladder, and thus is a risk for bladder infection.

Fill the tube(s) as described above. **Label tube(s) with the patient's complete first and last name and date of birth.** Include date and time of collection. Do not label tubes prior to collection.

Indicate on the requisition form if the specimen is from a foley or indwelling catheter. ■

| TEST NAME | TUBE TYPE |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Urinalysis | Speckle (conical)  |
| Urine Culture | Gray  |
| Urinalysis w/Reflex to Culture | Gray + Speckle (conical)  |

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