

I. Purpose:

Careful collection and prompt delivery of a urine specimen is necessary to ensure accurate test results.

II. Responsibility:

All laboratory personnel, physicians, nurses, and health unit coordinators.

III. Materials:**A. Collection containers**

1. 24 hour urine collection container

B. Preservatives

1. 1 gram boric acid tablets
2. 6 N HCL
3. 12N HCL – to be added to an aliquot of urine to acidify **AFTER** collection.
4. 50% Acetic Acid

C. Transport tubes

1. BD plain yellow urine vacutainer
2. Reference lab standardized transport tubes
3. Reference lab amber standardized transport tubes

D. Miscellaneous

1. “Caution Acid Added” labels to identify collection containers that contain acid preservatives.
2. Patient information labels

IV. Procedure:**Collection**

1. Determine if the urine needs to be collected in a plain (no additive) or a special (with additive) collection container. Check the zebra label or “www.Labcorp.com” to determine which urine jug is needed.
2. Obtain the correct collection container.
3. If urine preservative has been added to the urine jug, instruct the patient not to empty the additive out of the jug. Also caution the patient not to allow skin contact with the preservative. The patient should not void directly into the urine container.
4. Instruct the patient on the proper collection of the timed urine.

- a. Have patient empty their bladder at the beginning of the day. This urine is to be discarded. Record the exact time of this void on the jug.
- b. Label the urine jug with the patient's full name, date of birth, date and time collection started, and patient height and weight.
- c. After initial discarded specimen, collect all urine into a clean container then transfer it to the urine collection jug. The specimen should be kept cold during the collection period.
- d. Void the last specimen at the ending time period (2, 12, or 24 hours) then transfer it into the jug.
- e. Write the time of the last collection on the jug.

Note: If a Creatinine or Urea Clearance test has been ordered, a serum creatinine or urea (BUN) must be drawn with in 72 hours of the urine collection.

V. Transfer of the Specimen to the Laboratory

1. Using the volume indicators on the jug, measure the total volume and record. Indicate the total volume on the specimen label or transit list.
2. Mix the urine in the jug.
3. Pour off an aliquot of the urine directly into a plain yellow top urine tube. Fill at least two tubes for every test ordered.
4. Label the aliquots with the patients full name, date of birth or medical record number, collection start date, collection end date, collection time, total urine volume and collectors initials.
5. Place all aliquots and labels in a biohazard specimen bag then send them to the laboratory.
6. Discard the remaining urine.