



Urine Culture Information Sheet

OVERVIEW

MDL Test Name

Urine Culture

MDL Test Code

URN_CULT

Ask at Order Questions

N/A

Specimen Source

Urine, Specify collection method (i.e.: clean catch, foley catheter, cystoscopy, etc.)

SPECIMEN REQUIREMENTS

Container/Tube

- BD Vacutainer Urine C&S Tube (Preserved) [**Preferred**]
- Sterile Container (Unpreserved)

Specimen Volume (minimum)

- BD Vacutainer Urine C&S Tube: must be filled to minimum line printed on the tube (4mL)
- Unpreserved: 0.5mL

Sample Stability Time

- BD Vacutainer (Preserved): 48 hours
- Sterile Container (Unpreserved, Refrigerated): 24 hours
- **Please notify MDL if a STAT courier is needed to meet this time.**

Transport/Storage Conditions

- BD Vacutainer: Ambient (20 – 25°C) or Refrigerated (2 – 8°C)
- Sterile Container: Refrigerated (2 – 8°C)

Patient Preparation / Collection Instructions

Refer to the Urine Culture Specimen Collection Guide



PERFORMANCE

Days Performed

Daily; Monday – Sunday

Report Available (TAT) – (Once received at MDL)

2 – 4 days

Specimen Retention Time

7 days

Method Description

- Conventional aerobic bacterial culture technique with selective and non-selective media.
- Identification methods (when appropriate) may include any of the following: conventional biochemical testing, matrix-assisted laser desorption/ionization time-of-flight (MALDI-TOF) mass spectrometry, and commercial identification panels.
- Susceptibility testing (when appropriate) may include minimal inhibitory concentration (MIC) (broth microdilution or gradient strip diffusion) or disk diffusion.

Reference Values

No growth

Cautions

Unrefrigerated, unpreserved urine specimens greater than two hours old may be subject to overgrowth with organisms normally present in the urethral and periurethral areas, which may yield inaccurate or misleading results.