

Urine Culture – CAUTI Reduction Initiative

Effective Date: November 1, 2016

To improve patient care and lower our healthcare system CAUTI rate, **all urine samples for culture** MUST be received in a gray-top boric acid tube or the sample will be rejected. The boric acid tube prevents multiplication of microorganisms, reducing artefactual increases in the colony count.

Exception: A minimum of 3 ml is required for the gray-top tube (Red Arrow). For patients (usually pediatrics) unable to produce ≥ 3 ml of urine, staff must follow this protocol to avoid having the urine specimen rejected:

- a. Place urine into a sterile container, maintain refrigerated and send to the laboratory as quickly as possible.
- b. **Urine samples maintained at room temperature for greater than 2 hours of collection will be rejected.**

Note: It is imperative to transfer the collected urine into the gray-top tube as quickly as possible (≤ 30 minutes is optimal). Refer to the laboratory test directory (Culture, Urine) for information and a hyperlink to the Urine Specimen Collection Manual for detailed instructions.

Background: Urine specimens maintained at room temperature for greater than 2 hours allow microorganisms to multiply significantly, causing falsely elevated colony counts (*i.e.* CFU/ml). This seriously impacts both our patients and healthcare system as follows:

1. **Patients:** falsely elevated colony counts lead to unnecessary antibiotic use and potentially adverse complications (*C. difficile* infection, antibiotic resistance, *etc.*) and increased length of stay.
2. **Healthcare System:** falsely elevated colony counts negatively impact our Catheter Associated Urinary Tract Infection (CAUTI) rate, resulting in significant reimbursement penalties.

If you have questions, please contact Client Services (1-800-551-0488, option 5).

Internal URL to Laboratory Bulletins:

http://employee.beaumont.edu/portal/pls/portal/ip30dev.page_pkg.page?xid=lab_bulletins

External URL to Laboratory Bulletins:

<http://beaumontlaboratory.com/hospitals-laboratories-three/test-information-center/laboratory-bulletins/>

Laboratory Test Directory: <http://beaumontlaboratory.com/test-lab-directory>.



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