

## Urine Collection

When submitting urine specimens, please follow these guidelines:

- Random urine specimens are generally used for qualitative analysis. They should be clean-catch, early-morning specimens in clean containers with tightly fitting, leakproof lids.
- Twenty-four hour urine collections are required for quantitative analyses. Most tests require collection with a preservative which will be added to the container supplied by **NetworkReferenceLab** Customer Service. **Be sure to record the 24-hour urine volume on the test request form.** (The volume is required to calculate results.) If using a caustic or hazardous material in 24-hour urine collection, please inform patient and label the container appropriately. Caustic or hazardous material may be required for specimen stability.
- Place specimen(s) in bag with requisition and refrigerate unless test requirements specify different handling conditions.

## Urine Drug Screen Collection

- Chain-of-custody urine drug screen collection is available at Christian Hospital Northeast **NetworkReferenceLab** for **NetworkReferenceLab** clients.
- On-site chain-of-custody collection is available by special request, scheduled in advance. Training for on-site collection is also available by contacting **NetworkReferenceLab**.

## Microbiology Specimen Collection

Please see test-specific collection instructions under individual tests listed in the alphabetical test listings.

## Urine Collection - Barnes-Jewish Hospital

Special containers are utilized based on the type of analysis requested. Typically, these include specimens for urinalysis, culture, and 24-hour collection for timed chemistry tests such as creatinine clearance.

For urinalysis and urine cultures, Barnes-Jewish Hospital Laboratory employs a VACUTAINER® system which eliminates the need to submit the entire collection cup thereby preventing the risk of handling spilled or leaking specimens. A sterile cup with an incorporated cannula is used to collect the specimen and the appropriate VACUTAINER® is filled, labeled, and sent to the laboratory.

In the case of 24-hour and other timed urine specimens, the entire collection is required to be submitted. Large specimen bags are provided for the safe transportation of these specimens.

- Description of Urine Collection Containers:

- **Urinalysis and Urine Cultures:** Use a sterile urine culture kit which is packaged in a sealed plastic bag. The kit includes a sterile collection cup with the cannula incorporated in the lid, Castile soap towelettes, a grey-top VACUTAINER® tube with a **yellow** label for the urine culture (this tube contains a stabilizer to maintain optimal specimen integrity), and a yellow-top conical tube for urinalysis.

- If both urine culture and urinalysis are requested, use the sterile collection kit; fill the grey-top tube for the culture and the yellow-top tube for the urinalysis.

- A grey-top tube can **never** be used for urinalysis.

- 24-Hour and Timed Urine Collections: Containers for 24-hour and other timed urine specimens may contain an additive for specific testing; these are **additive containers**. Containers without an additive are **plain containers**.

- **Additive Containers:** These containers may be prepared with any 1 of the following additives; the container will be labeled as such and color-coded.

Label Code	Additive	Expiration Date
Gold	5 g Sodium Carbonate	Not Applicable
White	25 mL 50% Acetic Acid	Stamped on Container
Pink	10 g Boric Acid	Not Applicable
Green	25 mL 6N HCl	Stamped on Container
Blue	20 mL 6N HNO <sub>3</sub>	Stamped on Container

- Directions for 24-hour collections are printed on a label affixed to the container. See example:



**PLEASE READ CAREFULLY**

**Please write your Name and Date of Birth in the space below:**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date of Birth:** \_\_\_\_\_

Instructions for collection of 24-hour urine samples.  
Keep this container in the refrigerator if possible.

This collection container may contain a preservative as indicated by a colored label. Do not urinate directly into this container.

For proper evaluation of tests on a 24-hour urine sample it is important that a complete and accurate collection be made.

Drink less liquids during the collection period than you usually do (unless instructed otherwise by your physician). Do not drink any alcoholic beverages.

- 1: On day 1: Empty your bladder into the toilet when you get up in the morning. Record this as your starting time and the date.

\_\_\_\_\_ **AM.** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date**

- 2: From this time on collect all of your urine and place into the plastic bottle you were given.

- 3: On day 2: When you empty your bladder on the morning of the 2nd day be sure to add it to your collection container. This will be your final collection and should be made at approximately the same time as the time you began your collection. Record this as your ending time and date.

\_\_\_\_\_ **AM.** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date**

- 4: Make sure you have filled in all the blank lines on this container label and bring it to your physician's office or to the laboratory, as directed by your doctor, as soon as possible.