Urine for microscopy, culture & sensitivity (MC&S)

Container:
Sterile leak-proof universal –
• white top if minimal delay or
• red top (boric acid) if transporting from outside of the hospital or significant delay expected.

Minimum volume required:
10ml – if using boric acid please make sure fill to line indicated.

Guide to collection:
Specimens should be taken before antimicrobial therapy is started. Periurethral cleaning is recommended, first part of voided urine is discarded and without interrupting urine flow approximately 10ml is collected into universal. Remaining urine is discarded.

Transport, storage and special handling needs:
Specimens should be transported to the laboratory as soon as possible. If delays of greater than 4 hours then refrigerate sample. If the specimen is urgent and during routine hours please ring the laboratory to let them know to expect the sample.

Tests performed:
• Microscopy (if unsuitable for microscopic analysis e.g. presence of clots, flocculent debris etc sample is cultured)
• Culture – if indicated as possible infection

Samples which are not labelled as to type i.e. MSU, CSU, SPA, clean catch will only have microscopy performed and no culture. See link for more information.

Turnaround time:
• Microscopy within 24 hours of receipt
• Culture (if required) 1-3 days

Some resistant organisms may require further sensitivities

Comments:
If you suspect or know the patient has an infection with a Biohazard group 3 pathogen, such as TB or Salmonella typhi / paratyphi, please mark on the request card that the specimen is high risk.

If you are unable to collect 10ml of urine then please send sample in a white top universal. The laboratory maybe able to process sample using manual methods, however this may increase the turnaround time for this sample.
The following samples will be considered unsuitable and will be rejected on receipt:
1. Urine received (white top) delay from collection greater than 48 hours.
2. Urine received (red top) delay from collection greater than 96 hours.
3. Urine received (red top) volume less than 10ml.

**Processed out of hours/on call:**
Yes on paediatric samples only (not bag urines) if results will affect clinical management. Please inform the on-call Biomedical Scientist (after specimen has been taken) through switchboard that there is an urgent urine.