Urine
Collection

Random Urine Specimen

- ROUTINE random urine testing is performed as requested.
- An electronic or paper requisition is required when the specimen is collected.
- The specimen label contains 2 patient identifiers (first and last name and DOB or MRN or SSN), date and time of collection.
- The specimen must be brought to the laboratory as soon as possible. Should transport be delayed, refrigeration of specimen is required.

24-Hour Urine Specimen

- Collect all 24-hour specimens in clean containers (available from the laboratory) and store in a refrigerator or keep on ice (2°-8° C) (33°-38° F). Some 24-hour specimens need preservative added to the collection jug at the beginning; others can be added at the end. Please check “24-Hour Urine Preservatives” chart for more information, or call the lab at 747-1771.
- Take care that urine specimen bottles, urinals, and bedpans are clean and dry before collection begins.
- Accuracy of the 24-hour urine collection is important.
- Starting a 24-hour specimen in the morning is recommended, but not required.
- The patient should discard the first voided specimen in the morning. This time is marked as the starting time for the 24-hour period.
- Collect and combine all subsequent voidings for 24 hours. (Any loss of specimen may distort the results of the analysis.) The voiding at 24th hour marks the end of the collection period.
- Record start and finish times.
- If collection time is other than 24 hours (ie, the patient is unable to void at exactly the 24th hour), keep specimen. Note time of collection period and check with the attending physician to ascertain whether or not the specimen should be processed further.
- In order to avoid interference of drugs, the patient should stop medication before urine collection. Consult physician before stopping any medication.