

# 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 – 3 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.