SUBJECT: Urinalysis - Specimen Collection

The urinalysis includes color, appearance, specific gravity, leukocyte esterase, nitrites, pH, protein, glucose, ketones, urobilinogen, bilirubin and blood. A microscopic exam will be performed if the urine appearance, leukocytes, nitrites, protein or blood is abnormal. A microscopic exam will also be performed if specifically requested.

Voided

A first morning urine collected in a clean, dry specimen container or urine transport tube is the specimen of choice for a voided urinalysis, although the specimen may be collected at any time.

Clean-Catch

Prior to collection, clean the external genitalia with a mild antiseptic solution and dry. Allow the initial portion of the urine stream to escape, collect the midstream portion in a sterile container, and allow the final portion to escape. If a urine culture is not ordered, it is not necessary to void into a sterile container. A clean dry container may be used for urinalysis.

Catheterized

Catheterized specimens should not be routinely obtained for urinalysis although they may be submitted.

Specimen Handling

Ideally, the specimen for routine urinalysis should be examined while fresh. Specimens stored at room temperature should be delivered to the laboratory within 2 hours after collection. Refrigerated specimens are accepted for up to 24 hours after collection.

Volume

A minimum of 8 cc. should be collected. Frequency of analysis - 24 hours, 7 days a week.