



Urine Processing Changes Bay of Plenty

Please note the new process for analysing urine specimens submitted for microbiology analysis at Pathlab Bay of Plenty. The majority of urines will now be processed by an automated urine chemistry and microscopy system ([IRIS iRICELL](#)), and we will be adopting a selective urine culture approach as follows:

- Based on the urine chemistry and microscopy results, urines will be either cultured or not cultured.
- Urines that are not going to be cultured will be reported out with the chemistry and microscopy results on the day of receipt.
- All urines will be refrigerated for seven days before being discarded.

It is appreciated that in some clinical situations the presence of bacteruria is potentially significant regardless of the white cell count. Therefore urine samples from patients with the clinical scenarios listed below will **always** be cultured:

- Pregnancy.
- Pre-operative before urological surgery.
- Organ transplant patient.
- Neutropenic/severely immunocompromised.
- Age less than 3 months.
- Specimens collected as part of the work up for prostatitis.

Selective urine culture based on microscopy findings is now well accepted practice both internationally and throughout New Zealand.

This change in urine processing will be coming into effect on **25th January 2016**

Urine Volume Requirements

With the introduction of automated urinalysis, there is a requirement for a full tube of urine. The urine container should be filled to the top of the label as demonstrated in the photo.



When insufficient urine is received (below the minimum level on the photo), a manual microscopy and dipstick chemistry analysis must be performed by the laboratory. This is less efficient than the automated method and has the potential for human error.

Please contact Pathlab if you have any questions with regards to these changes.

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CLINICAL UPDATE