

DEPARTMENT OF MICROBIOLOGY

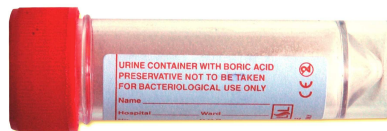
IMPORTANT NOTICE TO USERS

**Change to specimen collection container for urine samples submitted for M, C & S**

Dear User,

In order to comply with national guidance and as part of our on-going quality improvements, it is necessary to make a change to urine sample collection containers.

With immediate effect, urine samples for routine microscopy and culture (M,C &S) must be sent to the laboratory in 30ml boric acid (red-top) containers. When correctly filled, the boric acid acts as a preservative and maintains the integrity of the sample, avoiding the need for refrigeration while awaiting transport to the laboratory. A smaller 7ml paediatric boric acid container is available on request from Pathology.



*DO's*

Ensure the boric acid container is filled to the designated fill line and the top screwed on tightly

Send the sample to the laboratory as soon as collected

If there is a delay in sending the sample, store at room temperature

Use a collection specimen cup to collect the urine sample and then pour the sample into the red top universal to the fill line

*DON'T's*

Do not overfill or under-fill the container

Do not refrigerate the sample

Do not discard the white powder in the container

Do not urinate directly into the container

Do not send urine samples for M,C & S in white top plain universals

**From 1st December 2016 samples received in the laboratory requesting routine microscopy and culture will be rejected if they are not in boric acid containers.**

This does not apply to other investigations e.g Pregnancy tests, Chlamydia investigations, and Mycobacteria cultures

I hope you find the attached information useful. If you wish to discuss the changes in more detail then please contact me:

Tel: 0113 392 6777

Email: [iancocking@nhs.net](mailto:iancocking@nhs.net)



Leeds  
Pathology

Kind regards

Ian Cocking

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