

## *facts about...*

### *Laboratory – Urine Culture (Midstream Male)*

**Description:** Your doctor has requested that a specimen of your urine be analyzed in the Laboratory. This analysis will determine the presence or absence of bacteria capable of causing a urinary tract infection. Urine is normally a sterile body fluid. Unless it is collected properly, it may become contaminated with bacteria that normally inhabit the urethra, prostate or skin surfaces. To ensure the most accurate culture result, please carefully read and follow the specimen collection instructions below. It is equally important to transport the specimen as quickly as possible to the Laboratory (within 2 hours of collection). If a delay in transport is anticipated, please refrigerate the specimen to preserve its integrity.

**What to expect:** You will be given a urine culture collection container (provided by the Laboratory) to collect a urine specimen in the Outpatient Laboratory or at home. Final test results will be available to your doctor within one to three days.

**What to do:**

1. Wash hands with soap and water; rinse and dry. \
2. Remove the container, being careful not to touch the rim, inside of container or inside of container lid.
3. Expose penis. If not circumcised, hold foreskin back. Pass a small amount of urine into toilet.
4. Place the specimen cup under the urine stream and continue to urinate into the cup filling it half full. Let the remainder of the urine stream pass into the toilet.
5. When voiding is complete, close the specimen container and tighten the cap securely.
6. Wash hands and dress.
7. Clearly write the patient's full name and date of birth on the specimen container. Include the collection date and time on the label.
8. Give the specimen to Laboratory personnel or take the specimen to the Outpatient Laboratory if the specimen was collected at home.

**Where to go:** Central Registration at Evanston, Glenbrook, Highland Park or Skokie Hospitals or a Patient Service Center. Bring your specimen and additionally, you will be asked to provide a physician order if not already in the electronic health record and billing/insurance information.



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***Who to call if you have questions:*** If you have questions or would like additional information, ***if you have*** please call Microbiology Laboratory at Evanston Hospital at (847) 570-2733.