

# 24 Hour Urine Collections

## Principle

To provide patient instructions for the collection of a 24-hour urine specimen for the laboratory analysis and ensure proper specimen collection and handling of specimens submitted to the laboratory for testing

## Collection Process

1. Instruct the patient to void and discard the first urine specimen at a specific time (e.g., 8 AM).
2. Record the time of this initial voiding.
3. Use a waterproof pen or label to write the patient's full name, date of birth or medical record number, and the date and time the collection started (e.g., "Start: 8 AM on [date]"), and the date and time the collection ended. A patient label may also be used if available.
4. Collect all subsequent urine specimens throughout the 24-hour period in a clean 24 hour urine collection container. Use a second container if necessary.
5. Keep container on ice or refrigerate during collection.
6. Include the final urine specimen voided at the end of the 24-hour collection period (e.g., 8 AM the following day).
7. Screw the lid on securely. Transport the specimen promptly to the laboratory at the end of the collection period.
8. If any urine is lost during the collection period (incontinence, spills, discarded on accident) the process must be restarted with a new container and collection period.

## Related Documents

None

## References

LabCorp Specimen Collection Guidelines