

UTI Program

Urine Specimens

How to Interpret a Urine Culture Report



Bacterial count greater than or equal to 10^8 CFU/L with typical signs or symptoms of a urinary tract infection is considered significant.



The physician or nurse practitioner should reassess antimicrobial treatment need, susceptibility, route and duration based on the culture report.



More than two organisms is not significant and indicates probable contamination of the sample.

Methods for Specimen Collection

**Correct methods for urine culture collection^a**

Clean catch or mid-stream collection | in/out catheterization

^aStrict adherence to aseptic technique is essential for ensuring the quality of the urine specimen

**Incorrect methods for urine culture collection^b**

Condom catheter | From blue pads or briefs | From urinal, bed pan or specimen hat

^bThese methods lead to contaminated specimens and are unacceptable

Contact

This resource is part of Public Health Ontario's UTI Program.

For more information please visit www.publichealthontario.ca/UTI

or email ipac@oahpp.ca.