

Date: January 20, 2017
To: SZE All Physician/Physician Offices
From: AHS Laboratory Services – South Zone – Medicine Hat Regional Hospital Laboratory
Re: South Zone East Laboratory Expansion – Microbiology Transition Specimen Container Change

PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

Key Messages:

- **Effective December 16/16, in a phased approach, physician offices will transfer urine culture samples (>4mL) to a BD Urine Culture Tube. The phased approach will commence on December 16/16 with all physician offices complete by January 30/17.**

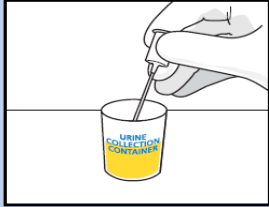
Why this is important:

- **Selected Medicine Hat physician office/clinics have been selected to participate in a demonstration roll out of BD Urine preservative use for C&S.**
 - This is in advance of the change to AHS as the supplier of physician office lab collection supplies planned for Feb 1 2017. This change is for BD tubes only.
- **Maintains the sample integrity for up to 48 hours at room temperature**
- **Decreases the chance of false positives**
- **Contains a lyophilized preservative – prevents overgrowth of bacteria**
- **BD tubes are leak proof for transport**
- **An instruction sheet is included in each kit. You will be sent a small bundle of these kits to use for training (practice).**
- **The straw portion of the kit should be discarded into a sharps container after use**

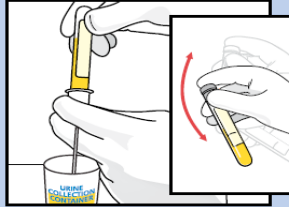
Action Required:

- Collect urines into a sterile orange top urine container and transfer into the transport tube using the supplied kit following instructions on the packaging. Deliver the sample to the lab promptly after collection.
- The BD Vacutainer tube holds 4mL, which will allow for proper urine to additive ratio. The transport tube **must** be filled to the minimum fill line **or the sample will be rejected**. The tube is a vacuum draw so it is critical that the bottom of the straw is immersed in the urine before the tube is pushed into the holder to ensure accurate filling.
- **Low Volume Urines** - If less than 4mL is collected (or if you are unsure that you have enough to fill the tube), transport the urine to the lab in a sterile orange top container. **This sample must be refrigerated** until it is transported to the lab and processed within 24 hours of collection.
- These kits will be supplied through the Lab Supply order form.
- Please call the client services number below and ask to be transferred to Microbiology for further explanation on kit use, if needed.
- Order the BD urine preservative tubes by writing this item on the Medicine Hat Diagnostic Lab Physician Order Form until instructed otherwise. Change to physician office supply orders will be communicated in early February.

C&S Tube Only



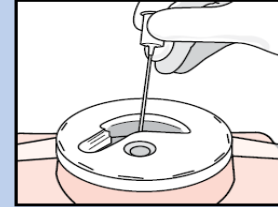
1. Submerge tip of transfer straw in specimen.



2. • Push C&S Preservative Tube (gray top) into the transfer straw all the way.
• Hold in position until flow stops.
• Remove tube, leaving transfer straw in specimen container.
• Shake tube vigorously.



3. Label filled tube with patient's name, the date/time of specimen collection and any other data required by your institution.



4. Dispose of transfer straw in sharps collector.

Inquiries and feedback may be directed to:

- Medicine Hat Regional Hospital Laboratory Client Services (403) 529-8919
- Michele Claypool Tech II, MHRH Microbiology michele.claypool@ahs.ca

This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by:

- Dr. Julio Silva, AHS Zone Clinical Department Head (Co-Lead) Laboratory Medicine, South Zone
- Dorothy Ward, South Zone Laboratory Director

South Zone East Laboratory Expansion Physician Information:

<http://www.albertahealthservices.ca/zones/page11683.aspx>