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ANNOUNCEMENT

NOW MULTIPLE OPTIONS AVAILABLE TO ORDER URINE CULTURES

Frequently clients of Doctors Laboratory, Inc. (DLI) ask "How can we place an order for a urine culture at the same time with urinalysis, but ONLY if the urinalysis is "Positive"?" Due to logistical, regulatory and specimen integrity concerns, DLI has recommended a more complex approach to accomplish this until now.

Recognizing the clinical urgency of performing a culture directly from a "positive" urinalysis and requests from multiple clients to make more options available for the benefit of their patients, DLI is pleased to offer ANY of the following four options effective July 1, 2007. Please note that all current options to order urinalysis or culture, individually or as reflex test, continue to be available.

(1) Urine Culture as a Reflex Test based upon "Standard Medical Practice" Criteria:

Under this option, the clinician may order a new DLI test code 1187 (Urinalysis with Culture Reflex) that will authorize DLI to perform a urine culture from a single specimen if ANY ONE or more of the well-accepted and published criteria for a "positive" urinalysis (urinalysis suggestive of urinary tract infection) are met. Since test authorization occurs each time, there will be no need for annual renewal of reflex test ordered in this manner. Those criteria will be:

(a) Positive Nitrite detected on urine dipstick

OR

(b) 1+ or greater Leukocyte Esterase detected on urine dipstick

OR

(c) A determination of 2+ or greater bacteria per high power field detected during urine microscopic examination

OR

(d) Greater than 5 WBC's per high power field detected during urine microscopic examination

(2) Urine Culture as a Reflex Test based upon Clinician-provided Criteria:

Under this option, once a year, the clinician will sign a reflex test authorization form specifying criteria that they consider to be "positive" urinalysis. When any of these criteria are met during urinalysis, urine culture will be performed.

DLI has two types of forms for this authorization – one applicable to ALL patients of a particular practice, the other for each individual patient the clinician chooses to test. Any DLI Marketing or Client Service Representative or local Service Center Manager will be happy to assist you to set this up.




(3) Urine Culture as a Simultaneous but Separate Test with Urinalysis:

When a patient's symptoms are strongly suggestive of urinary tract infection, the clinician always has the option of ordering urinalysis or urine culture, individually or together. If both tests are required, it is recommended that two separate containers be submitted to preserve the integrity of specimens.

(4) Urine Culture Order after Review of Urinalysis Results:

You may also decide to order a urine culture after reviewing results of urinalysis. A fresh specimen and request form should be submitted. Urine culture as an "Add Order" from the original urinalysis specimen is not recommended because its age and storage conditions may have compromised the specimen, making it unsuitable for culture.

The following table describes how to order and submit specimens for each option.

Purpose	Ordering Procedure	Specimen(s)	Container(s) to use
To order Urine Culture as a reflex test based upon "Standard Medical Practice" Criteria	Order Test Code 1187 for Urinalysis with Urine Culture as a reflex test	Clean catch, Catheterized, or aspirated urine in a sterile, secure container supplied by DLI	 REFRIGERATE
To order Urine Culture as a Reflex Test based upon Clinician-provided Criteria	(a) File annually renewable "Reflex Test Authorization" Form at DLI, AND (b) Order Test code 134 for Urinalysis each time	Clean catch, Catheterized, or aspirated urine in a sterile, secure container supplied by DLI	
To order Urine Culture as a separate test with or without Urinalysis	Order Test Code 219 for Urine Culture	Clean catch, Catheterized, or aspirated urine in a sterile, secure container or, in vial with Boric Acid preservative, supplied by DLI	 REFRIGERATE
To order Urine Culture after review of urinalysis results		IF WITH URINALYSIS: Split the specimen in two containers – one for Urinalysis, other for culture. DO NOT SEND "Boricult" for urinalysis.	OR  ROOM TEMP.

If you have any question regarding these options please contact Phil Shah, Director of Microbiology at 800-342-7552, ext. 2253.

"First in Service, First in Quality, First in Dependability"