

Proper Filling of Gray-Top Urine Culture Collection Tubes

I

Introduction

(Why is this important?)

- Proper urine specimen collection is essential to ensure accurate quantitative urine culture results and support appropriate patient care.

S

Situation

(What is the current situation?)

- The Clinical Microbiology Laboratory has recently received underfilled gray-top urine culture collection tubes. When recollection is necessary, patient care may be impacted.

B

Background

(What is important to know about the background?)

- Underfilled collection tubes may alter the urine-to-preservative ratio, potentially affecting culture results, **being rejected or requiring specimen recollection**, which may delay diagnosis and treatment.

A

Assessment

*(What is the evaluation?)
(Could include costs, risks, etc.)*

- The manufacturer's instructions require urine specimens to be filled to **the minimum fill line** to maintain the appropriate urine-to-preservative ratio and ensure **accurate quantitative culture results**.

R

Recommendation

(What actions need to take place?)

- Urine specimens submitted in gray-top urine culture collection tubes **must be filled to at least the minimum fill line** before transport to the laboratory.

