

LABORATORY STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES MANUAL	CRITERIA FOR PERFORMING URINE CULTURES WHEN ORDERED: PERFORM IF INDICATED
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I. PURPOSE:

Urinalysis is performed to aid in the diagnosis and monitoring of treatment of disease. It is often desirable to order a culture from the urinalysis specimen. However, urine cultures on most normal urines are unnecessary. In order to provide an efficient means of ordering cultures from positive urinalysis specimens, criteria must be defined.

II. CRITERIA:

When a physician orders urinalysis and urine culture **IF INDICATED**, a culture will be performed if any of the following are found in the urinalysis, providing the specimen is acceptable for culture:

- ★ Positive Nitrite
- ★ Positive Leukocyte Esterase
- ★ Greater than 5 White Blood Cells per High Power Field

III. PROCEDURE FOR ORDERING:

- ★ Order must state urinalysis, urine culture **IF INDICATED**.
- ★ The culture **WILL NOT** be performed on every urine specimen that meets the established criteria. The culture must be ordered and marked with the comment **IF INDICATED**.

IV. LABORATORY PROCEDURE:

- ★ Laboratory receives urine specimen with order of UA with urine culture **IF INDICATED**. **Both the Urinalysis and the urine culture must be marked on the requisition and the comment must be noted.**
- ★ Laboratory performs urinalysis.
- ★ Technologist compares urinalysis results with established criteria.
- ★ If urinalysis results meet the established criteria, technologist orders a Urine Culture and sends urine to Microbiology for processing of culture. If the urine doesn't meet the criteria, no other action is necessary; the testing is complete.

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See original policy in the Laboratory for all documented annual reviews.

Reference: Saunders Manual of Clinical Laboratory Science, Craig A. Lehman, PhD, CC(NRCC), W. B. Saunders Company, 1998, pp. 779-787.