



Change to Urinary Processing

Please note the new process for analysing urine specimens submitted for microbiology testing at Pathlab Waikato. The majority of urines will now be processed by an automated urine chemistry and microscopy system (IRIS iRICELL), and we will be adopting a selective urine culture approach as follows:

- Based on the urine chemistry and microscopy results, urines will be either cultured or not cultured.
- Urines that are not going to be cultured will be reported out on the day of receipt.
- All urines will be refrigerated for seven days before being discarded.

It is appreciated that in some clinical situations the presence of bacteruria is potentially significant regardless of the white cell count. Urine samples from patients with the clinical scenarios listed below will **always** be cultured:

- Pregnancy.
- Pre-op before urological surgery.
- Organ transplant patient.
- Neutropenic/severely immunocompromised.
- Age less than 3 months.
- Specimens collected as part of the work up for prostatitis.

Selective urine culture based on microscopy findings is now well accepted practice both internationally and throughout New Zealand.

This change in urine processing will be coming into effect on **21st July 2014**

Please contact Pathlab if you have any questions with regards to this change.

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