

Reflexive Urine Culture Update



Reflexive Urine Culture Trigger Update

Effective, 1/3/14, St. Luke's Laboratory will revise the order triggers for reflexive urine culture testing. This change was prompted by the large number of negative urine cultures that were being performed on the basis of the current trigger. In a recent study, the lab determined that 70% of the reflexive urine cultures were negative. Performing this many negative cultures is poor utilization of resources.

The new triggers that will prompt a reflexive urine culture order are:

- **Leukocyte Esterase Moderate to Large**
- **Nitrite Positive**

As with any lab test, when you increase your test specificity, you may experience some loss of sensitivity. Thus, if you have a high degree of clinical suspicion for urinary tract infection, please order the Urine Culture in your initial order, and not the UA with reflex.

Otherwise, when ordering urinalysis, you have the following choices:

- **UA with Reflex Micro/Culture Urinalysis**
 - Reflexes to microscopic and/or culture if abnormal
 - ED/UC patients ONLY if admitted within 5 hours
 - Reflexes to culture if cath urine patient < the age of 10
- **UA Dip Only (No Reflex) Urinalysis**
 - Urine Macroscopic, chemical analysis only
- **UA w/Micro Only Urinalysis**
 - Urine Macro and Micro, will NOT reflex a culture

If you have questions, please contact St. Luke's Laboratory:

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