

Collection of a Mid-Stream Urine (MSU) sample

Authors: Veronica Morley, Staff Nurse and Zoe Lawn, Nurse Practitioner, Pre Operative Assessment Clinic



James Paget
University Hospitals
NHS Foundation Trust

The purpose of this leaflet is to explain how adults should collect an MSU. How the sample is collected is very important because poor technique can result in incorrect / delayed diagnosis and potentially a delayed operation.

What is an MSU?

An MSU is a sample of the middle section of your urine stream. Urine is sterile and the first part of the stream will help to clear away any stagnant bacteria that may have built up the urethra (wee pipe). Done properly, it means that if bacteria are found then you have a urinary infection. To determine this, the sample is sent to the microbiology lab to be analysed. It is recommended that urine infections are treated before you undergo your surgery.

Why do I have to provide a sample?

The test will be able to identify whether you have an infection and if so; which infection you have and which specific antibiotics are required to treat the infection effectively (we call this sensitivity.)

The middle section is used as the initial flow will cleanse the urethra of any skin bacteria that could contaminate the sample leading to a false positive. Accidentally touching the rim of the container with your fingers or your genitals would also contaminate the sample.

How to provide a sample

You will be given a yellow top sample container. Ladies will also be given a larger sealed container.

It is important that you DO NOT open these until ready so that they remain sterile inside.

- 1. Wash your hands and genitals with soap and water, then dry**
- 2. Open the container(s)**
- 3. Men must retract the foreskin; women hold apart the vulva (labia flaps)**
- 4. Pass at least two-to-three seconds of forceful urine into the toilet bowl**
- 5. Without stopping collect enough urine to fill the container three quarters full**
- 6. DO NOT allow the container to touch the genital area and hold the container at the sides so as not to contaminate with your fingers. Tightly screw on the lid**
- 7. Finish passing urine into the toilet bowl**
- 8. Wash your hands and wipe the outside of the container if splashed with urine**

When do I need to give a sample?

You will be asked to provide a urine sample at your Pre-Operative Assessment appointment which is usually around two weeks before surgery. This is to allow ample time for testing and treatment if required. If it is not possible to book your Pre-Operative Assessment appointment two weeks before your operation date then you may be asked to bring a urine sample in to Pre-Operative Assessment Clinic prior to your appointment.

Please call the Pre Op Assessment unit for advice on

01493 453289 between 08.30 and 17.00 Monday – Friday

What to do if I am finding it difficult

It is best to come to pre assessment with a full bladder. If you forget and have gone to the toilet you will be asked to remain in the clinic and given water to drink until you are able to provide a sample. Any other problems and a nurse will help you.

How long will it take for the results?

Urine that is sent to the lab for testing usually takes between one-to-three days for the results.

If antibiotics are required a member of the nursing team will ring you to come back and collect a prescription which can be taken to any pharmacy.

Patients who have Catheters / Urostomies / Nephrostomies

Ensure you have attached a new, clean bag before coming to the Pre Op Assessment Unit and drink plenty of water.

Your Feedback

We want your visit to be as comfortable as possible - talk to the person in charge if you have any concerns. If the ward/department staff are unable to resolve it, then ask for our Patient Advice and Liaison (PALS) information. Please be assured that raising a concern will not impact on your care.

Before leaving please complete a Friends and Family Test feedback card.

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OUR VALUES

Collaboration We work positively with others to achieve shared aims

Accountability We act with professionalism and integrity, delivering what we commit to, embedding learning when things do not go to plan

Respect We are anti-discriminatory, treating people fairly and creating a sense of belonging and pride

Empowerment We speak out when things don't feel right, we are innovative and make changes to support continuous improvement

Support We are compassionate, listen attentively and are kind to ourselves and each other





The hospital can arrange for an interpreter or person to sign to assist you in communicating effectively with staff during your stay. Please let us know.

For a large print version of this leaflet, contact PALS 01493 453240