

## Useful Contact details

Switchboard, Lister Hospital

☎ 01438 314333

Pre-operative Assessment Unit,  
Treatment Centre, Level 4, Lister Hospital  
(Monday to Friday, 8:30am - 5:30pm)

☎ 01438 288134

## Further Information

The British Association of Urological Surgeons  
[www.baus.org.uk](http://www.baus.org.uk)

NHS Choices  
[www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk)

Lister Hospital  
Coreys Mill Lane  
Stevenage  
Hertfordshire  
SG1 4AB

[www.enherts-tr.nhs.uk](http://www.enherts-tr.nhs.uk)

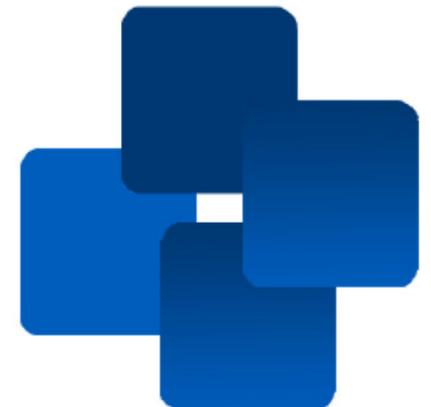
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# Patient Information

## Midstream Urine Sample (MSU)

Pre-operative Assessment Unit



## Introduction

This purpose of this leaflet is to explain how adults should collect a midstream urine (MSU) sample (specimen).

### What is a midstream urine sample?

Urine is normally sterile so if bacteria is present it means that there is an infection. A midstream urine (MSU) sample is used to confirm a diagnosis of a urine infection, and the best antibiotics to prescribe to treat the infection.

A MSU sample describes the middle part of your urine flow; you do not collect the first or last part of urine flow. By collecting the middle part of the flow of urine, the risk of the sample being contaminated with bacteria from your hands or skin around the urethra (the tube that carries urine out of the body) is reduced.

### Why do I need to provide a MSU?

NICE<sup>1</sup> guidelines advise it is best and safe practice that urine infections are treated before certain surgical procedures. By providing a MSU sample, we can check if an infection is present.

### What do I need to collect a sample?

You will be given a sterile urine sample bottle in a plastic bag with your details on - **do not** open the specimen pot until you are ready to collect the sample.

You will also be given instructions on where you need to leave the sample bottle within the pre-op assessment unit afterwards. Urine samples need to be dipped (checked) within two hours of them being collected.

<sup>1</sup>National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE)

## How to collect a clean urine sample

Before you collect the urine sample, wash your hands.

- Remove the screw cap from the sterile specimen bottle; do not allow the neck of the sample bottle touch your skin.
- Start to urinate and pass the first part of urine stream directly into the toilet, then after a couple of seconds, place the bottle in the flow of urine to catch a sample, and then finish your urine flow in the toilet.
- When you have finished, replace the screw top tightly and place in the plastic bag and seal it.
- Wash your hands thoroughly.

If you experience difficulties in aiming the flow of urine into the bottle, please ask a member of staff for a sterile receptacle in which you can pass urine before transferring it to the sterile sample bottle.

Before you leave the assessment unit, you may be given another sterile urine bottle so that you can provide a fresh specimen of urine on the admission date of your procedure.

### How long will it take for the MSU result?

If, when dipped, the urine sample is positive for bacteria, it will be sent to the pathology laboratory. This may take between 2-7 days to be processed.

### What happens if I have a positive result for an infection?

If the result from the laboratory is positive, you will be contacted by a member of the pre-operative assessment team and given instructions on required treatment.