

24-Hour Urine Testing- Preservative Tip Sheet

For Phlebotomy staff collecting and/or processing 24-hour urine tests in Cerner/JDOS.

DO NOT ADD A PRESERVATIVE UNLESS THE TEST SPECIFICALLY REQUIRES IT.

Incorrect preservative use may cause specimen rejection or cancellation.

LABEL COMMENTS IN CERNER / JDOS

Some 24-hour urine sendout tests include printed label comments indicating no preservative.

If the label comment states no preservative is required:

- Collect in a clean 24-Hour urine container
- Do NOT add acid or preservative
- Process specimen per normal 24-hour urine workflow

NO LABEL COMMENT PRESENT – INVESTIGATE FIRST

If there is no preservative comment on the label:

- STOP – do not add anything to the specimen
- Investigate preservative requirements BEFORE processing
- Confirm test routing and reference lab requirements
- Review the 24-Hour Urine Preservative Excel reference
- Verify required preservative type, volume, and container

AOE AND ROUTING CONSIDERATIONS

- Review Cerner AOE responses for collection details
- Confirm current test routing (QNI, Mayo, SQL, In-house)
- Some 24-hour urine tests are NOT available at all locations

COMMON ERRORS TO AVOID

- Adding preservative “just in case”
- Ignoring printed label comments
- Using the wrong container (acid-washed vs. plain)
- Mixing preserved and unpreserved urine

WHY THIS MATTERS

Improper preservative use can result in:

- Test rejection or cancellation
- Patient recollection
- Delays in diagnosis and treatment

REMINDER

If no label comment is present, investigate BEFORE adding a preservative.