1. **PURPOSE:**

Urinalysis is performed to aid in the diagnosis and monitoring of treatment of disease. It is often desirable to order a culture from the urinalysis specimen. However, urine cultures on most normal urines are unnecessary. In order to provide an efficient means of ordering cultures from positive urinalysis specimens, criteria must be defined.

1. **CRITERIA:**

When a physician orders urinalysis and urine culture **IF INDICATED,** a culture will be performed if any of the following are found in the urinalysis, providing the specimen is acceptable for culture:

* Positive Nitrite
* Positive Leukocyte Esterase
* Greater than 5 White Blood Cells per High Power Field
* Bacteria on microscopic: 1+ or Greater
* **NOTE**: >50 epithelial cells/LPF disqualifies specimen for culture. Re-collection is required.
1. **PROCEDURE FOR ORDERING:**
* Order must state urinalysis, urine culture **IF INDICATED.**
* The culture WILL **NOT** be performed on every urine specimen that meets the established criteria. The culture must be ordered and marked with the comment **IF INDICATED.**
* The order, “Urinalysis, Urine Culture if Indicated” is a reflex test which is approved by Medical Staff annually according to approved protocol
1. **LABORATORY PROCEDURE:**
* Laboratory receives urine specimen with order of UA with urine culture **IF INDICATED. Both the Urinalysis and the urine culture must be marked on the requisition and the comment must be noted.**
* When you order the UA, a query will come up on the screen. Answer yes if this is on the requisition, or no when either the comment is not there or no culture is marked at all.
* Laboratory performs urinalysis.
* Technologist compares urinalysis results with established criteria.
* If urinalysis results meet the established criteria, technologist edits the requisition to add the Urine Culture and sends urine to Microbiology for processing of culture. If the urine doesn’t meet the criteria, no other action is necessary; the testing is complete.
1. **STORAGE:**

Urines can be held at room temperature for no more than 2 hours and refrigerated for no more than 4 hours before they are rejected. Specimens in urine preservative tubes may be cultured up to 24 hour post collection.

Medical Director Approval: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_