

## Finger Tap Urine Collection

Finger tap urine collection provides a simple and reliable way of obtaining a "clean" urine sample from your baby.

- Start one hour after a feed not before.
- Get a labelled urine container.
- Clean your child's nappy area washing your hands before and after cleaning.
- With your child lying on his/her back in the cot one hour after a feed remove the nappy. Do not be put off if nappy is wet, there may be more urine to come.
- Take the lid off urine container and have it ready. Do not allow anything other than the urine to touch the inside of the container or it's lid, otherwise the urine test may be wrong.
- Tap with two fingers just above the bottom of the tummy (the public symphysis) in the midline. The nurse will show you where to tap.
- Give one tap every second for one minute, then stop for one minute, then tap for one minute and so on until urine appears or 10 minutes has passed.
- Do not allow your attention to wander. The urine stream can be very short and may come when you are not looking.
- Catch the urine in the container and put on the lid.

The average time it takes to collect urine in this way is 5½ minutes. 77% of children will produce urine within 10 minutes.

If you don't succeed try again after the next feed. Do not throw out a very small specimen. Only a few drops are enough for some tests.

[Ref: Taylor, Dillion, Keane, Brit Med (1986) 292:990]

## “Midstream Urine (MSU)”

- Older children who can pass urine when asked can collect a midstream urine (MSU) specimen.
- However, the child may still require some help in catching the urine sample.
- The child should wash their hands firstly and then wipe themselves with gauze and sterile water or a wipe provided by the E.D. staff. Again the child may need some help with this.
- Girls should wipe themselves from the front to the back, discard the gauze/wipe and then obtain the sample.
- Boys gently retract the foreskin as shown by the nurse/doctor, and clean the entire surface with the gauze soaked with the sterile water or wipe.
- The urine is collected half way through going to the toilet.
- The child should pass some urine into the toilet then pass some directly into the sterile urine container. The child can then finish passing urine in the toilet after getting the sample.

We advise that the content of this leaflet be discussed with your GP/ Practice Nurse.

Developed by Children's Emergency Dept & Medical Photography and Illustration 2008.

For Review 2010

## Patient Information Leaflet

# Urine Collection from a Child



THE ADELAIDE & MEATH  
HOSPITAL, DUBLIN  
INCORPORATING THE NATIONAL CHILDRENS  
HOSPITAL

### Statement of Values

Respect - Caring - Openness  
- Partnership - Teamwork  
Fairness & Equality

## Urine Tests

You have been asked to get a “wee” sample from your child. This may also be referred to as a urine sample.

Routine urine testing is often a part of the medical assessment your child receives and is used to help diagnose illness.

A urine test is the only way to know for sure if your child has a urine infection.

Urine infections cause children to have high temperatures and become unwell. Sometimes they can make children seriously ill, especially babies and young children.

Urine infections cannot be diagnosed with urine from a bag specimen. It is important that the urine is obtained from your child in a germ-free (sterile) way.

**In order to keep the urine container as sterile as possible. It is important not to:**

- let your child play with the sterile urine container
- allow the container to fall on the floor
- touch the inside of the sterile container with your or your child's hands or fingers

If any of the above happen please ask staff for a new urine container.

## How to Obtain a Urine Sample from your Child

### "Clean-catch"

A “clean-catch” means you try to catch some urine when your child does a wee.

- It is very hard to know when a child is going to wee, and it can be hard to catch the wee.
- It can be time-consuming and often not practical when children are unwell.
- It can be difficult to time catching a wee; several attempts may be needed.
- You may need to distract your child while waiting for him/her to wee. Distractions include reading him/her a book, playing with a toy or watching a DVD.
- Give your child a drink or breast feed to help fill the bladder.
- Before catching the wee you must clean your child's genital area (nappy area/bum).
- Clean your child's genital area as shown by the nurse/doctor, using sterile water and gauze which will be given to you.
- Your child can lie on the bed/trolley or sit on your knees while waiting for them to wee.
- Leave your child's nappy off and wait for them to wee and quickly catch a small amount in a sterile container.
- Ensure the child's name is on the urine container.

## How to Clean your Child

Clean your child's genital area as shown by the nurse/doctor, using sterile water and gauze. Don't forget to wash your hands before and after cleaning your child.

### For Girls

1. Gently separate the labia and clean thoroughly with the gauze soaked with the sterile water.
2. Clean from the front to the back and discard the gauze.
3. Gently pat the genitalia dry with a clean sterile swab.

### For Boys

1. Gently retract the foreskin as shown by the nurse/doctor, and clean the entire surface with the gauze soaked with the sterile water.
2. Replace the foreskin once dry.
3. Gently pat the genitalia dry with a clean sterile swab.

