



URINE CULTURE INTERPRETIVE GUIDE

***IMPORTANT:** In order to provide appropriate identification and susceptibility results, an accurate source must be recorded on all urine culture orders: Indicate either Clean Catch or Cath.*

CULTURE REPORT CFU/ML = colony forming units per milliliter of urine	INTERPRETATION
NO GROWTH	Urine is sterile and infection is not likely.
<10,000 CFU/ML of 1 or 2 organisms (Clean Catch) Or <1,000 CFU/ML of 1 or 2 organisms (Cath)	In most cases, 1 or 2 organisms present in these very low numbers does not indicate infection, but represents slight contamination with normal urethral flora and/or colonizing bacteria during collection. On rare occasions, very low numbers of certain bacteria may indicate true infection in some types of patients (transplant and urology patients and women of childbearing age). If further identification or susceptibility testing is clinically indicated, notify the Microbiology Lab within 3 days.
>=10,000 CFU/ML of 1 or 2 organisms (Clean Catch) Or >=1,000 CFU/ML of 1 or 2 organisms (Cath)	Growth may represent true infection if the organism is a potential uropathogen. Identification and susceptibility testing will be performed on 1 or 2 potential uropathogens.
Yeast Aerococcus spp Corynebacterium ureolyticum Gardnerella vaginalis	These organisms may be uropathogens but are typically treated with empiric therapy. Susceptibility testing is not routinely performed.
Lactobacillus spp Diphtheroids (except Corynebacterium ureolyticum) Streptococcus viridians Micrococcus spp Bacillus spp, not anthracis Staph spp. in mixed cultures (except for S. aureus and S. saprophyticus)	These organisms are not normally considered potential uropathogens. They are normal urethral flora and/or colonizing bacteria from the skin, vaginal or rectal areas. Susceptibility testing is not routinely performed.
“Mixed growth consistent with normal urethral flora and/or colonizing bacteria.”	Multiple organisms are growing, however none are potential uropathogens. All are normal urethral flora and/or colonizing bacteria from the skin, vaginal or rectal areas.
“Heavy mixed growth containing >=3 potential uropathogens, none predominant. Growth consistent with probable contamination during collection. Suggest repeat culture if clinically indicated, using collection methods that avoid contamination. Note that cultures from Foley Catheters yielding heavy mixed growth may indicate colonization of the catheter and not true significant bacteriuria.”	Literature indicates that UTI is caused by 1, or at most 2, uropathogens in quantities of >=10,000 CFU/ML for clean catch or >=1,000 CFU/ML for cath specimens. When 3 or more potential uropathogens grow in these quantities, with none predominant, identification and susceptibility testing of all may be misleading and/or of little diagnostic value, and therefore will not be performed. This type of growth indicates that contamination during collection is likely. If symptoms persist, then recollection of a <u>mid-stream</u> urine using proper cleansing protocols is recommended as it may yield results that are of greater diagnostic value.