AHRQ Safety Program for Improving Antibiotic Use



Urine Culture Collection

- Health care workers and residents should perform hand hygiene before collecting urine cultures; health care workers should wear gloves and use a sterile container.
- Assist residents with cleaning the peri-urethral region before collecting urine cultures.
- Collect a midstream clean-catch specimen; if this not possible, perform an in-and-out catheterization.
- For residents with catheters, urine culture specimens should be obtained from newly placed catheters whenever possible.
- Transport urine samples to the lab within 15 minutes. Immediately place samples in the refrigerator if this is not possible.

