

NURSING SERVICE GUIDELINES HEMODIALYSIS

Guideline: **Scheduled Water/Dialysate
Culture and LAL Specimens**



Policy Number Superseded:

Responsibility: Hemodialysis Registered Nurse
and Biomed

Effective Date:
May 2024

Purpose of Guidelines:

Initial Effective Date:
March 1996

Equipment:

- Chloraprep swabs
- Specimen container
- LAL test tube
- Spectra Lab specimen slip and shipping container

Procedure:

Procedure	Point of Emphasis
(A) Dialysate specimen.	
(1) Set up dialysis machine to be in conductivity. Record samples taken in the hemo logbook.	All machines are done on a scheduled basis.
(2) Cleanse sampling port on venous line with Chloraprep swab in a circular motion starting at the center and wiping outward.	To cleanse bacteria off port to prevent contamination of specimen.
(3) Allow 30 ml of dialysate to flow into a container.	To draw off any contaminants in the sample port.
(4) Clean catch dialysate sample into sterile container. Transfer samples to test tubes.	Maintain sterility to prevent contamination of specimen.
(5) Complete Spectra Lab form, label specimen and prepare to ship.	Specify machine #, if sample is dialysate or R/O water, and if specimen for culture or LAL. Specimens that cannot

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Scheduled Water/Dialysate Culture and LAL Specimens

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	be shipped immediately will need to be refrigerated.
(B) Water specimen.	
(1) Culture/LAL schedule list is in the hemo logbook for portable RO system.	All portables are done on a scheduled basis.
(2) Verify the portable RO unit is making product water.	To flush outlet of contaminants in the water system.
(3) Cleanse water outlet with Chloraprep swab.	To cleanse bacteria off of outlet to prevent contamination of specimen. Rinse dual line hose connection and connector at end of dual line hose with R/O water after bleach water soak to remove residual bleach.
(4) Allow 30ml or more water to flow into a bucket. Clean catch water sample into a sterile container. Transfer samples to test tubes.	Maintain sterility.
(5) Complete Spectra Lab form, label specimen and prepare to ship.	Be sure to specify station location and if specimen is R/O water or LAL. Specimens that cannot be shipped immediately will need to be refrigerated.

References: AMI Standards 2017.

Approved by:

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Review/Revision Completed by:

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