

## 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**Policy Number Superseded:**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

	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:

*Kurt Kless, MSN, MBA, RN, NE-BC  
Chief Nursing Officer*

Initial effective date:

March 1996

*Review/Revision Completed by:*

*Alexa McNamee, RN  
Tom Shaw, Biomedical Engineering*

Review/Revision Date:

May 1999	April 2008	June 2018
July 2002	February 2011	April 2021
July 2003	May 27, 2011	
July 2005	May 2014	
January 2007	June 2015	

May 2024

Next review date:

May 2027