Title: **WEEKLY WATER/DIALYSATE CULTURE AND LAL SPECIMENS**

**Responsibility:** Hemodialysis RN

**Equipment:**
- Sterile 30ml syringe
- Sterile 10ml syringe
- Chloraprep swabs
- Specimen Container
- LAL test tube
- Spectra Lab specimen slip and shipping container

### Procedure

#### Dialysate Specimen

1. **Culture/LAL schedule list is located in the “Hemo Log” book.**
   - All machines are done on a rotating basis.
2. **Cleanse sampling port on venous line of Hanson with Chloraprep swab in a circular motion starting at the center and wiping outward.**
   - To cleanse bacteria off of port to prevent contamination of specimen.
3. **Withdraw 30 ml of dialysate and discard.**
   - To draw off any contaminants in the sample port.
4. **Withdraw 10 ml of dialysate for specimen and place in sterile specimen cup or LAL specimen test tube.**
   - 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.

#### Water Specimen

1. **Culture/LAL schedule list is located in the “Hemo Log” book.**
   - All stations are done on a rotating basis.
2. **Run water for 3 min. at a slow to mod. rate. In soiled and clean room, use portable hose to run water to drain and disconnect hose after the 3 min. flush.**
   - To flush outlet of contaminants in the water system.
3. **Cleanse water outlet with Chloraprep swab. For R/O (reverse osmosis) units, soak dual line hose connection in solution of 10 parts water and 1 part bleach for 5 minutes.**
   - 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. **Turn on water slowly and obtain a CCMS sample of R/O water (at least 10ml). For R/O unit, allow water to run for 15 minutes prior to obtaining CCMS sample from dual hose line (with dual hose connector connected).**
   - 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.

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**References:** AMI Standards 2008