

Why the timely transport of urine specimens is important

Urine is an excellent supportive medium for growth of most bacteria.

If urine is left at room temperature for more than **>1 hour**:

- The organisms (both infecting & colonising) present in the urine can multiply and will obscure the true relative numbers.
- Colonising organisms (from urethra) present in the urine can multiply & overgrow, suppressing the growth of infecting organisms.

Therefore, if there is a delay (**>1 hour after collection**) in transport, the specimen must be refrigerated at 4C.

Bacterial counts in refrigerated (4C) urine remain constant for as long as 24hrs.

For further information please contact:

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