

Urine collection in infants and young children

Urinary Tract Infection (UTI) is an infection in the urinary tract which includes your kidneys, bladder, the tubes connecting them (ureters) and the passage out from the bladder (urethra). A urine test is the only way to know for sure if your child has a UTI.

If your child has signs and symptoms of a UTI such as fever, vomiting, poor feeding, abdominal pain, burning sensation when passing urine or passing urine frequently, it is likely that your child will need to have a urine sample collected.

UTIs cannot be diagnosed with urine from a bag specimen. Babies and young children who cannot pass urine when asked will need to have a clean catch urine sample collected.

How to collect a clean catch urine sample

- Have a sample container ready before removing child's nappy/underwear.
- Clean the skin around the genital area with soap and water or cleaning wipes.
- Keep watching until your child passes urine. Be ready to catch a sample in the container.
- Hold the container away from your child's skin when catching the urine, so that skin bacteria does not contaminate the urine sample.



Older children who are able to pass urine when asked can have a midstream urine (MSU) sample collected.

How to collect a MSU sample

- Clean the skin around the genital area with soap and water or cleaning wipes.
- Initially, let some urine pass into the toilet.
- Collect a sample from halfway through the urine passage (midstream).
- Do not let the sample container touch the skin.

The specimen must be correctly labelled with the date, time of collection and your child's surname, first name, and date of birth to match the details on the request form.

Place the specimen in the fridge in a plastic bag if unable to take the specimen to the GP, pathology laboratory or hospital within 30 minutes.



Before leaving the Emergency Department the doctor should specify where you will need to take your child's urine specimen and who will follow up the results.

If you have any other concerns take your child to your local doctor or emergency department.



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Child and Adolescent Health Service



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