



Copley Hospital, Inc. Laboratory Services Directory

URINE PRESERVATIVES; 24 HOUR COLLECTIONS

Generally acid preservatives are added to the urine specimen after it is collected, and the specimen is returned to the lab.

In rare instances, acid preservative may be added to the empty 24-hour urine container prior to the specimen being collected. If this is the case, the patient is instructed to urinate into a clean container and then to carefully pour the urine into the 24-hour container. Stress the need for pouring carefully so as to not spill or splash the acid preservative.

Advise the patient that the preservative in the 24-hour urine container is likely to be caustic and/or poisonous. Appropriate labels must be placed on the container whenever preservatives are added prior to the collection.