

REFLEX CRITERIA UPDATE:

URINALYSIS WITH REFLEX TO URINE CULTURE

January 30, 2024

REFLEX CRITERIA UPDATE

Effective Tuesday February 6, 2024, Pacific Diagnostic Laboratories (PDL) will be adjusting the reflex criteria for urinalysis with reflex to urine culture.

IMPACTED TESTS:

- URINALYSIS (UA) WITH MICROSCOPIC (REFLEX CULTURE IF INDICATED) LAB9468
- URINALYSIS DIPSTICK (WITH REFLEX TO MICROSCOPIC AND CULTURE IF INDICATED) LAB9488

REFLEX URINE CULTURE if UA results are as follows:					
	WBC	Epithelial Cells	Nitrate	Leukocyte Esterase	Bacteria
Scenario 1	≥10	≤2+	Any	Any	Any
Scenario 2	Any	Any	POSITIVE	≥2	Any
Scenario 3	Any	Any	POSITIVE	Any	≥2

REASON FOR THE CHANGE:

Technical data evaluation of the urinalysis and urine culture results indicate a significant improvement of the negative and positive predictive values with the updated reflex algorithm.

ADD ON Requests: If a provider deems a culture is warranted but the culture did not reflex, please follow the add-on request process. An acceptable specimen for urine culture add-on is either a *refrigerated unpreserved urine <24-hours old or room temperature/refrigerated BD Gray Urine Tube <48-hours old.*

FOR ADDITIONAL TECHNICAL INFORMATION:

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ICD10 CODING REMINDER:

- ➔ The urinalysis with reflex to culture order frequently does not have adequate ICD10 coding for the urine culture.
- ➔ Medicare National Coverage Determination Policy (NCD 190.12) exists for Urine Culture, Bacterial
[NCD - Urine Culture, Bacterial \(190.12\)](https://www.cms.gov/medicare-coverage-determinations/national-coverage-determinations/ncd190-12-urine-culture-bacterial)
[cms.gov](https://www.cms.gov)

- ➔ PDL Medical Necessity Tip Sheet is available on our website [Pacific Diagnostic Laboratories - Clinical and Anatomic Labs \(pdl-labs.com\)](https://www.pdl-labs.com) on the Provider Resource page under Notifications, Guides & Forms

URINALYSIS COMPONENT	UPDATED CRITERIA	PREVIOUS CRITERIA
<i>Result Component</i>	<i>Result Value</i>	<i>Result Value</i>
WBC	≥10	≥6
	AND	AND
Epithelia Cell	None Seen, 1+, 2+	None Seen, 1+, 2+
	OR	OR
Nitrite	Positive	Positive
	AND	OR
Leukocyte Esterase	≥2+	Trace, 1+, 2+, 3+
	OR	OR
Bacteria	≥2+	≥2+
	OR	OR
Other Criteria	<2 years old	<2 years old
DATA ANALYSIS OF REFLEX CRITERIA AGAINST URINE CULTURE RESULTS		
NEGATIVE PREDICTIVE VALUE	81%	53%
POSITIVE PREDICTIVE VALUE	61%	34%