

Midstream Specimen of Urine (MSU)

What is a Midstream Specimen of Urine (MSU)?

A MSU is a sample of urine (wee) that is sent to a laboratory to be tested for evidence of infection. Urine does not normally contain any micro-organisms (bugs); therefore if the laboratory finds micro-organisms, that tells us there is an infection.

The reason we call it a midstream urine sample is because you don't collect the first or last part of urine that comes out. The midstream urine will give us the clearest result.

How do you collect a MSU?

- label the sample pot with your name, date of birth and the date and time you take the sample
- wash your hands with soap and water, rinse and dry thoroughly
- if possible wash your genitals as well

remove lid from the sample pot (If you are unable to collect the specimen directly into the sample pot, you may use a clean wide-mouth container. (Any container, previously washed thoroughly with detergent and hot water and stored dry, is suitable)

- for men, retract your foreskin if necessary, for women, hold open the entrance to your vagina
- start to urinate into the toilet, wait for a second or two, and without stopping the stream of urine collect some urine in the pot.
- screw the lid of the container shut (if you used another container, transfer it to the sample pot)
- wash your hands with soap and water, rinse and dry thoroughly
- if you can, get the sample to your GP surgery within an hour

Follow any other instructions your doctor gives you.

How should you store your sample (if needed)?

If you can't hand your urine sample in to the GP surgery within an hour, you should keep it in the fridge at around 4C (39F) for no longer than 24 hours. Put the container of urine in a sealed plastic bag first.

The bacteria in the urine sample can multiply if it isn't kept in a fridge. If this happens, it could affect the test results.

Continued overleaf...

Originator: Infection Prevention and Control



What happens if your MSU tests positive for an infection?

Please contact your GP surgery for your results as advised by your nurse or doctor who asked for this test. The results are usually available within 2-4 days.

If you have any concerns, please contact your own GP or the Out of Hours Service on 111.