EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT
Care Directive

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TITLE:</th>
<th>Care Directive for Ordering and Collecting Urine for Urinalysis, Culture &amp; Sensitivity, and Pregnancy Testing in the Emergency Department by Registered Nurses</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NUMBER:</td>
<td>1350</td>
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| Sponsor: | Tanya Sheppard, Clinical Manager, Emergency Care  
Emma Burns, Emergency Physician |
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<tr>
<td>Page:</td>
<td>1 of 5</td>
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<tr>
<th>Approved by:</th>
<th>Medical Advisory Committee</th>
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<tr>
<td>Approval Date:</td>
<td>Apr. 17&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;, 2018</td>
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<tr>
<td>Effective Date:</td>
<td>June 12&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;, 2018</td>
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| Applies To: | Registered Nurses in the Emergency Department |

PREAMBLE

One of the priorities of the Emergency Department (ED) at the IWK Health Centre is to reduce patient wait times while continuing to provide safe, high-quality care. Recognizing patients who may benefit from a urinalysis, urine culture & sensitivity, or urine pregnancy test early in their ED visit will help to ensure efficient care and appropriate utilization of resources. See Policy #1330 – Care Directive for the Investigation of Febrile Infants (0-90 days) by Registered Nurses in the Emergency Department for direction on urine collection in infants younger than 90 days.

POLICY STATEMENTS

1. This care directive provides IWK ED Registered Nurses (RNs) the authority, guidance and direction to order and obtain urine for urinalysis, culture & sensitivity, and pregnancy testing as deemed appropriate following patient assessment, without a written patient-specific order.

2. RNs practicing in the ED must have the appropriate education, assessment skills, and experience to safely and competently implement the care within this care directive. RNs will demonstrate competency by:
   - Understanding the components of care within this care directive
   - Understanding the signs and symptoms of possible urinary tract infection (UTI) and genitourinary trauma

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• Identifying patients for whom pregnancy testing would be clinically relevant

3. The Emergency Physician must be available in the ED for consultation and collaboration with the RN.

PROTOCOL

1. This care directive authorizes IWK ED nurses to order and obtain a urine specimen for patients who have a clinical indication for urinalysis, culture & sensitivity, or pregnancy testing and meet the following inclusion criteria:

   Inclusion Criteria:
   
   • Age greater than 90 days

   Clinical Indications for Urinalysis and Culture & Sensitivity:
   
   • Signs or symptoms of UTI, such as dysuria, hematuria, flank pain, abdominal discomfort, urinary retention or frequency, or urinary incontinence
   • Past medical history significant for genitourinary conditions or history of UTIs
   • Fever without a focus that is greater than or equal to 38.5°C for more than 48 hours:
     o girls 3 months to 2 years of age, and
     o uncircumcised boys 3 months to 2 years of age
   • Recent history of genitourinary trauma (e.g., saddle injury, flank/abdominal trauma)

   Clinical Indications for Pregnancy Testing (in post-pubescent females):
   
   • Abdominal pain
   • Vomiting (without diarrhea)
   • Amenorrhea
   • Signs and symptoms of UTI, as above
   • Abnormal vaginal bleeding
   • Ingestion of substance that may pose harm to a fetus
   • Syncope

2. The ED RN identifies the need to collect a urine specimen and informs the patient/parent/substitute decision maker (SDM) of same.

3. The RN advises the patient/family/SDM that the physician will assess the patient and interpret the results of any urine tests and will inform them of their clinical relevance.

4. The ED RN determines the appropriate method of urine collection based on the patient's age and developmental stage.

Note: Do not send urine specimens obtained from a Pediatric Urine Collection (PUC) bag for culture & sensitivity testing.

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5. The RN documents the date and time of the urine collection as well as the method of collection on the Emergency Department Record.

6. The RN indicates the appropriate tests to be performed by writing the required tests or selecting the appropriate tick boxes on the Emergency Treatment Record.

7. All results of urine testing will be reviewed by the emergency physician responsible for the patient’s care.

Note: Obtaining a urine specimen via catheterization of the bladder requires a patient-specific physician order for patients over 90 days of age.
REFERENCES


***
District Health Authority/IWK Policies Being Replaced

(Please List)

Version History

(To Be Completed by the Policy Office)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Major Revisions (e.g. Standard 4 year review)</th>
<th>Minor Revisions (e.g. spelling correction, wording changes, etc.)</th>
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