

Attention: Please comply with the following protocols to ensure ACL Laboratories expedites the specimen processing and turn-around time of your urine samples.

ACL Laboratories uses the red/yellow top tube for urinalysis testing.



Red/yellow tops:

- Contain a preservative that prevents the degeneration of cellular elements and the overgrowth of bacteria, without interfering with testing methods
- Are able to extend stability of the sample for testing to 48 hours
- **Cannot** be used for urine cultures

Urines collected in other containers without the preservative are **only stable for 2 hours** at room temperature. Refrigerated stability varies and may be as short as 8 hours in extremely abnormal urines.

It is extremely important to submit a 4.0 mL gray top culture tube, along with the red/ yellow top, on any urinalysis tests that have reflex culture testing as a component. Urine gray tops for culture **MUST** be filled to the fill line or the specimen collection will be rejected. The reason for rejection is that the ratio of preservative can inhibit growth affecting the results. **If the 4.0 ml gray top is not submitted, a subsequent culture that reflexes will have to be cancelled/ credited.**



Please consult the table below to identify which tests require and which do not require a gray top to accompany a red/yellow top:

Test Name	Test Order Code	Specimen Collection Container
Urinalysis Screen w/ Microscopic if Indicated, Urinalysis with Microscopic Exam	USCR, UCOM	1 red/yellow top
Urinalysis Screen w/ Microscopic and Urine Culture Reflex, Urinalysis Complete Including Microscopic and Urine Culture Reflex	UACS, UCOMCS	1 red/yellow top and 1 small gray top
*Urinalysis Screen w/ Microscopic if Indicated or Urinalysis with Microscopic Exam and Urine Culture	USCR or UCOM and URC	1 red/yellow top and 1 small gray top
Urine Culture	URC	1 small gray top

***Note:** Do not order a culture reflex urinalysis test (Test Order Codes UCOMCS or UACS) with a Urine Culture (Test Order Code URC), as this can accidentally cause duplicate testing and billing to the patient for a second culture test being potentially performed.

For additional information regarding these tests, as well as specimen collection requirements, please contact ACL Client Services at 1.800.877.7016 or visit our website at acllaboratories.com/providers/test-directory/.