

PD Procedures: Dialysate Effluent Collection

1.0 Practice Standard

The following procedure will be followed when collecting a dialysate effluent specimen. The collection of dialysate effluent specimens requires meticulous care in order to avoid contamination of the fluid. Specimens are collected when peritonitis is suspected. Identification of appropriate antibiotic therapy is dependent on accurate collection methodology. The patient's first cloudy effluent bag has the greatest probability of an accurate cell count. A minimum dwell time of at least 2 hours is preferred.

- Obtain specimen(s) from drained peritoneal dialysate effluent provided by patient
OR

if not available, collect specimen(s) from the drained dialysate effluent that has dwelled in the patient's peritoneal cavity for at least 2 hours. **Note:** if the patient does not have fluid in their peritoneal cavity you will need to instill minimum of 1L of 1.5% dialysate and allow to dwell for 1-2 hours. You can then drain the effluent and collect the specimens

2.0 Supplies

- Syringe(s): Size dependent on PD program/Health authority recommendation. See chart
- Needle(s): 21/22 g or 18 gauge blunt needle
- Sterile specimen container(s) as per PD program/Health authority recommendation. See chart
- Requisitions as per PD program/Health authority recommendation. See chart
- Alcohol/betadine swab
- Non sterile gloves
- Patient labels

3.0 Procedure

1. Wash hands and glove.
2. Swab the sample port of the dialysis drain bag with alcohol or betadine and allow to dry.
3. Using aseptic technique, withdraw peritoneal dialysate effluent from the sample port using sterile syringes as per chart. Separate syringes should be used to collect all specimens to ensure no contaminants are in the culture specimen.
4. Insert correct amount of dialysate effluent into each of the sterile containers as per chart
5. Label each of the sterile containers and send to the lab STAT with the appropriate requisitions. Ensure that each requisition indicates that the specimen is PD dialysate effluent.
6. Document the procedure and actions taken

Health Authority	Total volume of dialysate effluent to collect	Lab test/requisition required	Specimen container required
NHA	2 x 50ml	C&S and gram stain STAT cell count & differential	2 x sterile orange top specimen containers
FHA	60ml	C&S and gram stain Cell count and differential	Orange top sterile C&S container
VIHA	110ml	C&S and gram stain Cell count and differential: (same req as for u/a and other fluids)	3 MSU containers with pink lid: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50 ml in two containers • 10ml in the third container
IHA	75ml	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • C&S and gram stain • aerobic and anaerobic culture • Cell count and differential 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50ml in sterile container • 8-10ml in each aerobic/ anaerobic bottle • 3-5ml in light purple top blood vacutainer
VCA (VGH)	100-120ml	C&S and gram stain Cell count and differential	2 x 90ml sterile specimen containers
SPH	2 x 60ml	&S and gram stain Cell count and differential	2 x 90ml sterile specimen container

Disclaimer: Patient and PD program specifics must be considered when implementing procedures.