

The Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathology at Mayo Clinic initiated a study to determine stability of analytes under different preservative conditions. This reference chart, built from that study, will enable you to select either temperature conditions or preservatives to maximize the number of tests that can be performed on a single 24-hour collection.

Note: The conditions and concentrations of urine preservatives are defined at the end of this document. See the Test Catalog for test-specific collection requirements.

Published Test Name	Test ID	Preservative Options										Transport Temperature		
		Temperature Preservative (no additive)			50% Acetic Acid*	Boric Acid*	Diazolidinyl Urea (Germall)*	6M Hydrochloric Acid	6M Nitric Acid	Sodium Carbonate*	Toluene	Preservative Addition Timing	External	Internal
		Ambient	Refrigerate	Frozen										
Adrenal Mass Panel, 24 Hour, Urine	ACC	No	OK	OK	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	After collection	Frozen preferred ≤ 90 days Refrig ≤ 14 days	Frozen
Albumin, 24 Hour, Urine	ALB24	OK	Preferred	OK	No	OK	OK	No	No	No	No	After collection	Refrig preferred ≤ 7 days Frozen ≤ 7 days Ambient ≤ 7 days	Ambient
Aldosterone, 24 Hour, Urine	ALDU	No	No	No	Preferred	OK	No	No	No	No	No	Before collection	Refrig preferred ≤ 28 days Frozen ≤ 28 days Ambient ≤ 14 days	Ambient
Aldosterone with Sodium, 24 Hour, Urine	ALDNA	No	No	No	Preferred	OK	No	No	No	No	No	Before collection	Refrig preferred ≤ 14 days Frozen ≤ 14 days Ambient ≤ 7 days	Ambient
Alpha-1-Microglobulin, 24 Hour, Urine	A124	OK	Preferred	OK	OK	OK	No	No	No	No	No	After collection	Refrig preferred ≤ 7 days Frozen ≤ 7 days Ambient ≤ 7 days	Ambient
Aluminum, 24 Hour, Urine	ALU	OK	Preferred	OK	OK	No	No	OK	OK	No	No	After collection	Refrig preferred ≤ 28 days Frozen ≤ 28 days Ambient ≤ 28 days	Ambient
Ammonium, 24 Hour, Urine	AMMO	No	OK	OK	OK	OK	Preferred	OK	No	No	No	Before collection	Refrig preferred ≤ 14 days Frozen ≤ 14 days Ambient ≤ 72 hours	Ambient
Arsenic with Reflex, 24 Hour, Urine	ASU24	OK	Preferred	OK	OK	No	No	OK	OK	No	No	After collection	Refrig preferred ≤ 28 days Frozen ≤ 28 days Ambient ≤ 72 hours	Ambient
Arsenic Speciation, 24 Hour, Urine	SPASU	No	Preferred	OK	OK	No	No	OK	OK	No	No	After collection	Refrig preferred ≤ 28 days Frozen ≤ 28 days Ambient ≤ 72 hours	Ambient
Arylsulfatase A, 24 Hour, Urine	ARSU	No	Required	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	During collection	Refrig preferred ≤ 14 days Frozen NO Ambient NO	Ambient
Cadmium, 24 Hour, Urine	CDU	OK	Preferred	OK	OK	No	No	OK	OK	No	No	After collection	Refrig preferred ≤ 28 days Frozen ≤ 28 days Ambient ≤ 28 days	Ambient
Calcium, 24 Hour, Urine	CALU	OK	Preferred	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	No	No	No	After collection	Refrig preferred ≤ 14 days Frozen ≤ 30 days Ambient ≤ 72 hours	Ambient
Catecholamine Fractionation, Free, 24 Hour, Urine	CATU	No	No	No	Preferred	OK	No	OK	OK	No	No	Before collection	Refrig preferred ≤ 28 days Frozen ≤ 28 days Ambient NO	Refrigerate

Urine Preservatives—Collection and Transportation for 24-Hour Urine Specimens (continued)

Published Test Name	Test ID	Preservative Options										Transport Temperature		
		Temperature Preservative (no additive)			50% Acetic Acid*	Boric Acid*	Diazolidinyl Urea (Germall)*	6M Hydrochloric Acid	6M Nitric Acid	Sodium Carbonate*	Toluene	Preservative Addition Timing	External	Internal
		Ambient	Refrigerate	Frozen										
Chloride, 24 Hour, Urine	CLU	OK	Preferred	OK	OK	OK	OK	No	No	OK	No	After collection	Refrig preferred ≤ 14 days Frozen ≤ 30 days Ambient ≤ 7 days	Ambient
Chromium, 24 Hour, Urine	CRU	OK	Preferred	OK	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	After collection	Refrig preferred ≤ 28 days Frozen ≤ 28 days Ambient ≤ 28 days	Ambient
Citrate Excretion, 24 Hour, Urine	CITR	No	OK	OK	No	OK	Preferred	No	No	No	No	Before collection	Refrig preferred ≤ 14 days Frozen ≤ 14 days Ambient NO	Ambient
Cobalt, 24 Hour, Urine	COU	OK	Preferred	OK	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	After collection	Refrig preferred ≤ 28 days Frozen ≤ 28 days Ambient ≤ 28 days	Ambient
Copper, 24 Hour, Urine	CUU	OK	Preferred	OK	OK	No	No	OK	OK	No	No	After collection	Refrig preferred ≤ 28 days Frozen ≤ 28 days Ambient ≤ 28 days	Ambient
Cortisol/Cortisone, Free, 24 Hour, Urine	COCOU	No	OK	OK	OK	Preferred	No	No	No	No	No	Before collection	Refrig preferred ≤ 14 days Frozen ≤ 28 days Ambient ≤ 72 hours	Ambient
Cortisol, Free, 24 Hour, Urine	CORTU	No	OK	OK	OK	Preferred	No	No	No	No	No	Before collection	Refrig preferred ≤ 14 days Frozen ≤ 28 days Ambient ≤ 7 days	Ambient
Creatinine, 24 Hour, Urine	CTU	OK	Preferred	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	No	OK	No	After collection	Refrig preferred ≤ 30 days Frozen ≤ 30 days Ambient ≤ 14 days	Ambient
Creatinine Clearance, Serum and 24 Hour Urine	CRCL	Preferred	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	No	After collection	Refrig preferred Frozen OK Ambient OK	Ambient
Cystinuria Profile, Quantitative, 24 Hour, Urine	CYSQN	No	OK	OK	No	No	Preferred	No	No	No	OK	Before collection	Frozen preferred ≤ 70 days Refrig ≤ 14 days Ambient NO	Refrigerate
2,3-Dinor 11 Beta-Prostaglandin F2 Alpha, 24 Hour, Urine	23BPT	No	Preferred	OK	OK	OK	No	No	No	OK	No	After collection	Refrig preferred ≤ 14 days Frozen ≤ 30 days Ambient ≤ 8 hours	Refrigerate
Gadolinium, 24 Hour, Urine	GDU	OK	Preferred	OK	No	No	No	OK	OK	No	No	After collection	Refrig preferred ≤ 28 days Frozen ≤ 28 days Ambient ≤ 28 days	Ambient
Heavy Metals Screen, with Reflex, 24 Hour, Urine	HMU24	No	Preferred	OK	OK	No	No	OK	OK	No	No	After collection	Refrig preferred ≤ 7 days Frozen ≤ 7 days Ambient NO	Ambient
Homovanillic Acid, 24 Hour, Urine	HVA	No	No	No	Preferred	No	No	OK	OK	No	No	Before collection	Refrig preferred ≤ 28 days Frozen ≤ 180 days Ambient NO	Ambient
5-Hydroxyindoleacetic Acid, 24 Hour, Urine	HIAA	No	OK	OK	Preferred	OK	No	OK	OK	OK	OK	Before collection	Refrig preferred ≤ 56 days Frozen ≤ 365 days Ambient NO	Ambient

Urine Preservatives—Collection and Transportation for 24-Hour Urine Specimens (continued)

Published Test Name	Test ID	Preservative Options										Transport Temperature		
		Temperature Preservative (no additive)			50% Acetic Acid*	Boric Acid*	Diazolidinyl Urea (Germall)*	6M Hydrochloric Acid	6M Nitric Acid	Sodium Carbonate*	Toluene	Preservative Addition Timing	External	Internal
		Ambient	Refrigerate	Frozen										
Immunoglobulin Total Light Chains, Urine	TLCU	OK < 72 hours	Preferred	OK	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	After collection	Refrig preferred ≤ 7 days Frozen ≤ 20 days Ambient ≤ 72 hours	Ambient
Iodine, 24 Hour, Urine	UIOD	OK	Preferred	OK	OK	No	No	No	No	No	No	After collection	Refrig preferred ≤ 28 days Frozen ≤ 28 days Ambient ≤ 28 days	Ambient
Lead, 24 Hour, Urine	PBU	OK	Preferred	OK	OK	No	No	OK	OK	No	No	After collection	Refrig preferred ≤ 28 days Frozen ≤ 28 days Ambient ≤ 28 days	Ambient
Leukotriene E4, 24 Hour, Urine	TLTE4	No	Preferred	OK	OK	OK	No	No	No	OK	No	After collection	Frozen ≤ 28 days Refrig preferred ≤ 7 days Ambient ≤ 24 hours	Frozen
Magnesium, 24 Hour, Urine	MAGU	OK	Preferred	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	No	No	No	After collection	Refrig preferred ≤ 14 days Frozen ≤ 30 days Ambient ≤ 72 hours	Ambient
Manganese, 24 Hour, Urine	MNU	OK	Preferred	OK	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	After collection	Refrig preferred ≤ 28 days Frozen ≤ 28 days Ambient ≤ 7 days	Ambient
Mast Cell Mediators, 24 Hour, Urine	MCM24	No	No	Preferred	OK	OK	No	No	No	OK	No	After collection	Frozen ≤ 28 days Refrig NO Ambient NO	Varies
Mercury, 24 Hour, Urine	HGU	No	Preferred	OK	OK	No	No	OK	OK	No	No	After collection	Refrig preferred ≤ 7 days Frozen ≤ 7 days Ambient NO	Ambient
Metanephrines, Fractionated, 24 Hour, Urine	METAF	No	OK	OK	Preferred	Preferred	No	OK	No	OK	OK	Before collection	Refrig preferred ≤ 28 days Frozen ≤ 28 days Ambient ≤ 28 days	Ambient
Metanephrines with 3-Methoxytyramine, 24 Hour, Urine	META3	OK	OK	OK	Preferred	Preferred	No	OK	No	OK	OK	Before collection	Refrig preferred ≤ 28 days Frozen ≤ 28 days Ambient ≤ 21 days	Ambient
3-Methoxytyramine, 24 Hour, Urine	3MT	OK	OK	OK	Preferred	Preferred	No	OK	No	OK	OK	Before collection	Refrig preferred ≤ 28 days Frozen ≤ 28 days Ambient ≤ 21 days	Ambient
N-Methylhistamine, 24 Hour, Urine	NMH24	OK	Preferred	OK	OK	OK	No	OK	OK	OK	No	After collection	Refrig preferred ≤ 28 days Frozen ≤ 28 days Ambient ≤ 14 days	Ambient
Monoclonal Protein Quantitation, 24 Hour, Urine	MPQU	OK	Preferred	OK	No	No	OK	No	No	No	No	After collection	Refrig preferred ≤ 14 days Frozen ≤ 5 days Ambient ≤ 24 hours	Varies
Monoclonal Protein Screen, 24 Hour, Urine	SMPU	OK	Preferred	OK	No	No	OK	No	No	No	No	After collection	Refrig preferred ≤ 14 days Frozen ≤ 5 days Ambient ≤ 24 hours	Varies
Monoclonal Protein Studies, 24 Hour, Urine	MPU	OK	Preferred	OK	No	No	OK	No	No	No	No	After collection	Refrig preferred ≤ 14 days Frozen ≤ 5 days Ambient ≤ 24 hours	Varies

Urine Preservatives—Collection and Transportation for 24-Hour Urine Specimens (continued)

Published Test Name	Test ID	Preservative Options										Transport Temperature		
		Temperature Preservative (no additive)			50% Acetic Acid*	Boric Acid*	Diazolidinyl Urea (Germall)*	6M Hydrochloric Acid	6M Nitric Acid	Sodium Carbonate*	Toluene	Preservative Addition Timing	External	Internal
		Ambient	Refrigerate	Frozen										
Nickel, 24 Hour, Urine	NIU	OK	Preferred	OK	OK	No	No	No	OK	No	No	After collection	Refrig preferred ≤ 28 days Frozen ≤ 28 days Ambient ≤ 28 days	Ambient
Nitrogen, Total, 24 Hour, Urine	NITU	OK	Preferred	OK	OK	No	No	OK	No	OK	No	After collection	Refrig preferred ≤ 7 days Frozen ≤ 3 years Ambient ≤ 7 days	Ambient
Osmolality, 24 Hour, Urine	OSM24	No	Preferred	OK	No	No	OK	No	No	No	No	Before collection	Refrig preferred ≤ 14 days Frozen ≤ 14 years Ambient ≤ 72 hours	Refrigerate
Oxalate, 24 Hour, Urine	OXU	No	OK	No	No	No	Preferred	No	No	No	No	Before collection	Refrig preferred ≤ 14 days Frozen ≤ 14 days Ambient ≤ 72 hours	Ambient
Phosphorus, 24 Hour, Urine	POU	OK	Preferred	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	No	No	No	After collection	Refrig preferred ≤ 14 days Frozen ≤ 30 days Ambient ≤ 7 days	Ambient
pH, 24 Hour, Urine	UPH24	No	OK	OK	No	No	Preferred	No	No	No	No	Before collection	Refrig preferred ≤ 7 days Frozen ≤ 7 days Ambient NO	Ambient
Porphyrins, Quantitative, 24 Hour, Urine	PQNU	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Required	No	Before collection	Frozen ≤ 7 days Refrig NO Ambient NO	Refrigerate Protect from light
Potassium, 24 Hour, Urine	KUR	OK	Preferred	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	No	OK	No	After collection	Refrig preferred ≤ 14 days Frozen ≤ 30 days Ambient ≤ 7 days	Ambient
Protein, Total, 12 Hour, Urine	12PU1	OK	Preferred	OK	No	OK	OK	No	No	No	No	After collection	Refrig preferred ≤ 14 days Frozen ≤ 30 days Ambient ≤ 24 hours	Ambient
Protein, Total, 24 Hour, Urine	PTU	No	Preferred	OK	No	OK	OK	No	No	No	No	After collection	Refrig preferred ≤ 14 days Frozen ≤ 30 days Ambient ≤ 24 hours	Ambient
Retinol-Binding Protein, 24 Hour, Urine	RB24	No	Preferred	OK	No	OK	No	No	No	No	No	After collection	Refrig preferred ≤ 7 days Frozen ≤ 7 days Ambient NO	Ambient
Serotonin, 24 Hour, Urine	SERU	OK	OK	OK	Preferred	No	No	No	OK	No	OK	Before collection	Refrig preferred ≤ 28 days Frozen ≤ 28 days Ambient ≤ 48 hours	Refrigerate
Sodium, 24 Hour, Urine	NAU	OK	Preferred	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	No	No	No	After collection	Refrig preferred ≤ 14 days Frozen ≤ 30 days Ambient ≤ 7 days	Ambient
Sulfate, 24 Hour, Urine	SULFU	No	Preferred	OK	No	OK	OK	No	No	OK	No	After collection	Refrig preferred ≤ 14 days Frozen ≤ 14 days Ambient NO	Ambient
Supersaturation Profile, 24 Hour, Urine	SUP24	No	OK	No	No	No	Preferred	No	No	No	No	Before collection	Refrig preferred ≤ 14 days Frozen ≤ 14 days Ambient ≤ 72 hours	Ambient

Urine Preservatives—Collection and Transportation for 24-Hour Urine Specimens (continued)

Published Test Name	Test ID	Preservative Options										Transport Temperature		
		Temperature Preservative (no additive)			50% Acetic Acid*	Boric Acid*	Diazolidinyl Urea (Germall)*	6M Hydrochloric Acid	6M Nitric Acid	Sodium Carbonate*	Toluene	Preservative Addition Timing	External	Internal
		Ambient	Refrigerate	Frozen										
Thallium, 24 Hour, Urine	TLU	OK	Preferred	OK	OK	No	No	OK	OK	No	No	After collection	Refrig preferred ≤ 28 days Frozen ≤ 28 days Ambient ≤ 28 days	Ambient
Titanium, 24 Hour, Urine	TIU24	No	No	Preferred	OK	No	No	No	No	No	No	After collection	Frozen ≤ 28 days Refrig NO Ambient NO	Frozen
Urea, 24 Hour, Urine	URAU	No	OK	OK	OK	Preferred	OK	OK	No	OK	No	After collection	Refrig preferred ≤ 14 days Frozen ≤ 30 days Ambient ≤ 7 days	Ambient
Uric Acid, 24 Hour, Urine	URCU	No	OK	OK	No	Preferred	OK	No	No	OK	No	After collection	Refrig preferred ≤ 14 days Frozen ≤ 30 days Ambient ≤ 7 days	Ambient
Vanillylmandelic Acid, 24 Hour, Urine	VMA	No	No	No	Preferred	OK	No	OK	OK	No	No	Before collection	Refrig preferred ≤ 28 days Frozen ≤ 180 days Ambient NO	Ambient
Zinc, 24 Hour, Urine	ZNU	OK	Preferred	OK	OK	No	No	OK	OK	No	No	After collection	Refrig preferred ≤ 28 days Frozen ≤ 28 days Ambient ≤ 28 days	Ambient

The conditions and concentrations of urine preservatives are defined for 24-hour collections as follows:

Ambient	Room temperature (21–25 degrees C)
Refrigerated	4–8 degrees C
Frozen	-20 degrees C
50% Acetic Acid	25 mL per 24-hour collection For patients < 5 years old: 15 mL per 24-hour collection
Boric Acid (crystals)	10 g per 24-hour collection
Diazolidinyl Urea (250 g/L)	5 mL per 24-hour collection
6M Hydrochloric Acid	30 mL per 24-hour collection
6M Nitric Acid	15 mL per 24-hour collection
Sodium Carbonate (crystals)	5 g per 24-hour collection
Toluene	30 mL per 24-hour collection

*Supply items:

50% Acetic Acid = T558

Boric Acid = T473

Diazolidinyl Urea (Germall) = T822

Sodium Carbonate = T272

6M Hydrochloric acid, 6M Nitric acid, and Toluene are not available as Supply items through MCL.

Preservative and condition guidelines have been evaluated specifically for Mayo Clinic Laboratories assays. If you have questions regarding the use of preservatives, contact Mayo Clinic Laboratories at 800-533-1710 or 507-266-5700.