

## **Methods of collection of urine specimens in children**

Best technique will vary according to multiple factors including age of child, urgency of specimen, how unwell child is, levels of skill in nursing / medical staff available etc etc

ED may use different techniques than paed ward or OP clinic

Need to be aware of limitations, likely contamination

### Suprapubic aspiration

Green needle / syringe directly into bladder. Aseptic technique.

Advantages – low contamination rates, useful in septic neonate

Disadvantages – invasive, need to time between spontaneous voiding

### Catheter specimen

Either in and out catheter for specimen only or left in situ if urine output need monitoring.

Advantages – specimen rapidly obtained, lower contamination rates than some techniques

Disadvantages – invasive, appropriate skill and equipment needed

### Urine pads

Sterile pad (similar to sanitary towel) placed inside nappy and then aspirated with needle to get urine specimen

Advantages – non invasive, studies suggest lower contamination rates than with bags

Disadvantages – availability, still significant contamination

### Clean catch specimen

Clean perineum, nappy off, give parents sterile pot to catch sample

Advantages – relatively low contamination, non-invasive, allows parents to take sample

Disadvantages – messy, time consuming

### Urine bags

Clean perineum, stick on bag and wait

Advantages – easy, non-invasive

Disadvantages – high contamination rates. Often used incorrectly