A sample of your child’s urine needs to be tested. This will help your child’s doctor to provide appropriate care for him.

There are many different ways that urine may be collected. How we get the urine depends on your child’s age and the type of test ordered. Younger children may have a plastic bag applied to the outside of the body to catch the urine. Older children will be asked to urinate in a cup or special container in the toilet. Sometimes, we may need to get the urine in a special way, such as catheterization, where a small tube is put into the bladder for a short time.

**Random Urine Sample:**

This sample can be collected at any time during the day. The urine can be used for routine or screening tests to check for blood, protein cells, bacteria, or other substances.

**Urine Culture:**

This urine sample is collected in a special way. The urine is sent to the laboratory for testing. The urine will be checked for growth of bacteria. If an infection is present, the urine can also be checked to see what medicine works best to treat the infection.

See **“Clean Catch Urine Collection”** CARE CARD.

**Timed Urine Collection:**

All of your child’s urine will need to be collected for a period of time in a special container. Your clinic nurse or doctor will give you the information about how long to collect the urine, how to store it, label it correctly and when to bring it back to the clinic. The entire sample will be used for tests to check the amount of chemicals passed through the kidneys into the urine over a specific amount of time.

See **“Home Timed Urine Collection”** and **“Collection of Day/Night Urine”** CARE CARDS.

Remember, the laboratory can only give results to your doctor. **If you have questions, please call your doctor or the Children’s Mercy Hospital Information Line at (816) 234-3188.**