

**To:** Dartmouth Health Providers

**From:** Abigail Johnston, MS, MLS(ASCP)<sup>CM</sup>

**Date:** July 7, 2025

**Re:** Updated Reflex Criteria for Culture from Urinalysis

Effective July 8, 2025 the criteria used to trigger a culture from the order Urinalysis with Reflex Culture [LAB348] have been updated to improve the negative predictive value and align with best practices.

OLD Reflex Criteria	NEW Reflex Criteria – as of 7/8/2025
Urinalysis with ANY of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Leukocyte esterase is moderate or large</li><li>• Nitrite (+)</li><li>• WBC &gt; 10 cells/hpf</li><li>• Patient is &lt; 30 days old</li></ul> → Urine culture performed	(1) Urinalysis chemistry positive for ANY of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Protein (+)</li><li>• Blood (+)</li><li>• Nitrite (+)</li><li>• Leukocyte esterase (+)</li></ul> (2) Then, urinalysis microscopic evaluated & if ANY of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• WBC &gt; 10 cells/hpf</li><li>• Patient is &lt; 30 days old</li></ul> → Urine culture performed

LAB348 should be reserved for patients with signs and/or symptoms of a urinary tract infection (UTI).

Patients who are pregnant, neutropenic, or undergoing urological procedures should have Urine Culture [LAB239] and/or Urinalysis with Microscopic [LAB4024] ordered as separate labs, if desired to guide clinical management.

### What do Providers need to do?

There is no change to ordering or interpreting these tests. Please reach out for additional information if needed.

### For questions or additional information, please contact:

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