

Sample Taking

Specimen taking is necessary for people who have symptoms of infection and should be used for making antibiotic choices. Where possible do not start antibiotics until a specimen is taken and result has been reported. This is important in preventing Antimicrobial Resistance.

What type of symptoms should You be concerned about?

Difficulty passing urine

Confusion/Fever

Frequent need to use commode but not able to pass urine.

Offensive smelling, urine or foul smelling diarrhoea.

Do Act early on these symptoms in an older person, as they can lead to a blood stream infection

What might an Infection look like?

If you hold the pot to the light and it is clear then it is unlikely to be an infection.

If it is turbid, cloudy or blood stained it is highly likely to be an infection.

Always wash hands before and after handling body fluid Wear PPE

If Fever is present 38°C OR ABOVE SEEK MEDICAL ADVICE STRAIGHT AWAY.

In women shower/wash before taking sample

Try to catch mid stream sample

The pot and form require 3 identifiers.

Name , Date of birth

NHS number if possible GP and address.

If not the sample will not be processed.



For stool specimens

Place tissue into the toilet and allow resident to sit without flushing the toilet. Wearing PPE scoop a small amount onto the tip of the specimen collection spoon in the pot.

For watery diarrhoea seek advice from the ICN team,

If someone has had

Clostridium difficile in the past seek ICN advice

Do not take a specimen.

