



## *Technical Memorandum*

**To:** Physicians, Clinical Staff, and Clients  
**From:** Dr. Wesley Kim, M.D., Medical Director  
**Date:** July 31, 2018  
**Subject:** Urinalysis Testing

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Urinalysis testing at Diagnostic Laboratory Services (DLS) has multiple options which include complete urinalysis (dipstick biochemical and microscopic), complete urinalysis with reflex to culture (dipstick biochemical, microscopic, reflex culture), urinalysis (dipstick biochemical only), and urinalysis (microscopic only).

There are, however, situations (underlying medical conditions, drug (azo dyes) effect, other ingested substances, etc) where a patient's urine can contain significant color interference which can invalidate the biochemical part of the urinalysis testing process. In addition, from a billing compliance standpoint, if the laboratory cannot analyze any of the biochemical markers in the urinalysis, it cannot bill the insurance company or patient for that part of the testing process.

In an effort to ensure, to the best of our ability, high quality, reliable accurate results, timely patient care, and billing compliance, effective August 1<sup>st</sup>, DLS will be implementing an algorithmic process to manage physician urinalysis orders when there is significant color interference that invalidates the lab's ability to report out the dipstick biochemical results.

For any urinalysis order where a dipstick biochemical is requested, if the laboratory analyzer cannot obtain any results due to significant color interference, the lab will automatically cancel the dipstick biochemical part of the testing and make note of such change on the patient's report with an appropriate statement. We will still complete any remaining testing ordered on that sample (i.e. microscopic, reflex culture and susceptibility testing), and still report the color and appearance of the urine. We will adjust the billing appropriately to reflect only testing that could be performed and results released. Finally, if only a urinalysis (dipstick biochemical only) was ordered and cannot be performed, the lab will notify the ordering physician of the inability to perform testing due to color interference and cancel the test.

We hope this will simplify both the lab process, standardize reporting, ensure billing compliance, and minimize the number of calls to clients during business hours or after hours for cancellation of testing.

If you have any questions or concerns, please call DLS Client Services at 589-5101.