



**NL Health
Services**

Memorandum

To: Eastern Zone Laboratory staff and Clinical Care Teams
From: Public Health Microbiology Laboratory (PHML)
Date: May 30th, 2025
Re: BD Kiestra Go-Live & Urine Specimen Container Requirement

The BD Kiestra automation system went live at the Public Health Microbiology Laboratory (PHML) on May 27th, 2025. This system enhances specimen processing efficiency and improves turnaround times for high-volume bacteriology testing for specimens submitted to PHML.

Note on Specimen Labels

An additional sample barcode will now print from Meditech when ordering specimens for throat cultures. To aid lab staff in a smooth transition to using the new equipment and improve turnaround times, we request that all throat samples be labelled with the new formatted barcode (second label) compatible with the Kiestra instrument. See images below for the required label and correct placement.



Important Note Regarding Urine Specimen Collection Containers

To support the automation process, urine specimens should be submitted using validated containers:

- Vacutainer® C&S Preservative Tube (BD, [link](#))
- Starplex™ Sterile Container (Fisher Scientific, [link](#))

These are compatible with the Kiestra system. Eastern zone inventory is being updated and, once the supply of current sterile urine containers is exhausted, the compatible containers will be received when a urine container order is placed with Materials Management. While we continue to process specimens submitted in alternate containers, please note that these will require manual handling, resulting in **slower turnaround times and increasing the risk of contamination.**

Implementation Period Caution

As with any new system, the initial weeks of implementation may come with temporary adjustment delays. We ask for your patience and support as the lab team completes the onboarding process, which will take place in a phased approach for different specimen types over several months.

During this time, turnaround times for **urine cultures and throat swabs** *may* be longer than usual.

We appreciate your collaboration and understanding as we transition to this important new platform.

Thank you,

Nicole Butler

Operations Manager - PHML

Dr. Robert Taylor, PhD, FCCM

Interim Division Head - Microbiology