

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
NURSING CARE QUALITY ASSURANCE COMMISSION**

WHPS Procedure Summary 20.01: Dilute and Abnormal Urine Specimens

SUMMARY:

Urine specific gravity below 1.003 in conjunction with a creatinine level below 20 mg/dl constitutes a dilute specimen. Washington Health Professional Services (WHPS) schedules an additional test on all dilute specimens. A dilute specimen submission may result in cessation of practice until WHPS receives a verified negative result.

SUMMARY

1. Dilute Specimens:
 - A. All dilute specimens will have an observed test scheduled for the next business day.
 - B. WHPS provides the nurse with recommendations on how to avoid dilute specimens.
 - C. A second dilute within a three (3) month period results in a non-compliance notice being sent, request a written explanation from nurse for reason for dilute, frequency of testing may be increased, and contract time may be increased.
 - D. A third dilute specimen in a three (3) month period requires the nurse to undergo a medical evaluation to determine cause.
 - E. A fourth or subsequent dilute specimen after medical evaluation provides no cause; WHPS schedules a hair test, notifies the WSM, may require the nurse to cease practice, attends a face-to-face evaluation with the nurse, and reports to Nursing Care Quality Assurance Commission (NCQAC).
 - F. When a dilute test result is positive, WHPS considers the test to be a valid positive result.
2. Abnormal Specimens:
 - A. When either the specific gravity or creatinine level is below threshold, WHPS classifies the test as abnormal.
 - B. All abnormal specimens will have an observed test scheduled for the next business day.
 - C. WHPS contacts the nurse and provides recommendations on how to avoid abnormal specimens.

- D. A third abnormal specimen in a three (3) month period requires the nurse to undergo a medical evaluation to determine cause.
- E. A fourth or subsequent abnormal specimen after medical evaluation provides no cause, results in a hair test being scheduled, WSM notification, possible cease practice, face to face evaluation with CM, and report to the NCQAC.
- F. When an abnormal drug test result is positive; WHPS considers the test to be a valid positive result.

3. Out of Temperature Range Specimens

- A. WHPS considers out of temperature range specimens as invalid, and possibly substituted or adulterated.
- B. When an out of temperature range specimen is received the nurse must stay at the collection site and submit a second sample per the collection site's procedures, failure to do so will be considered a positive test.
- C. WHPS may request a hair test in response to any out of temperature range specimen submissions.

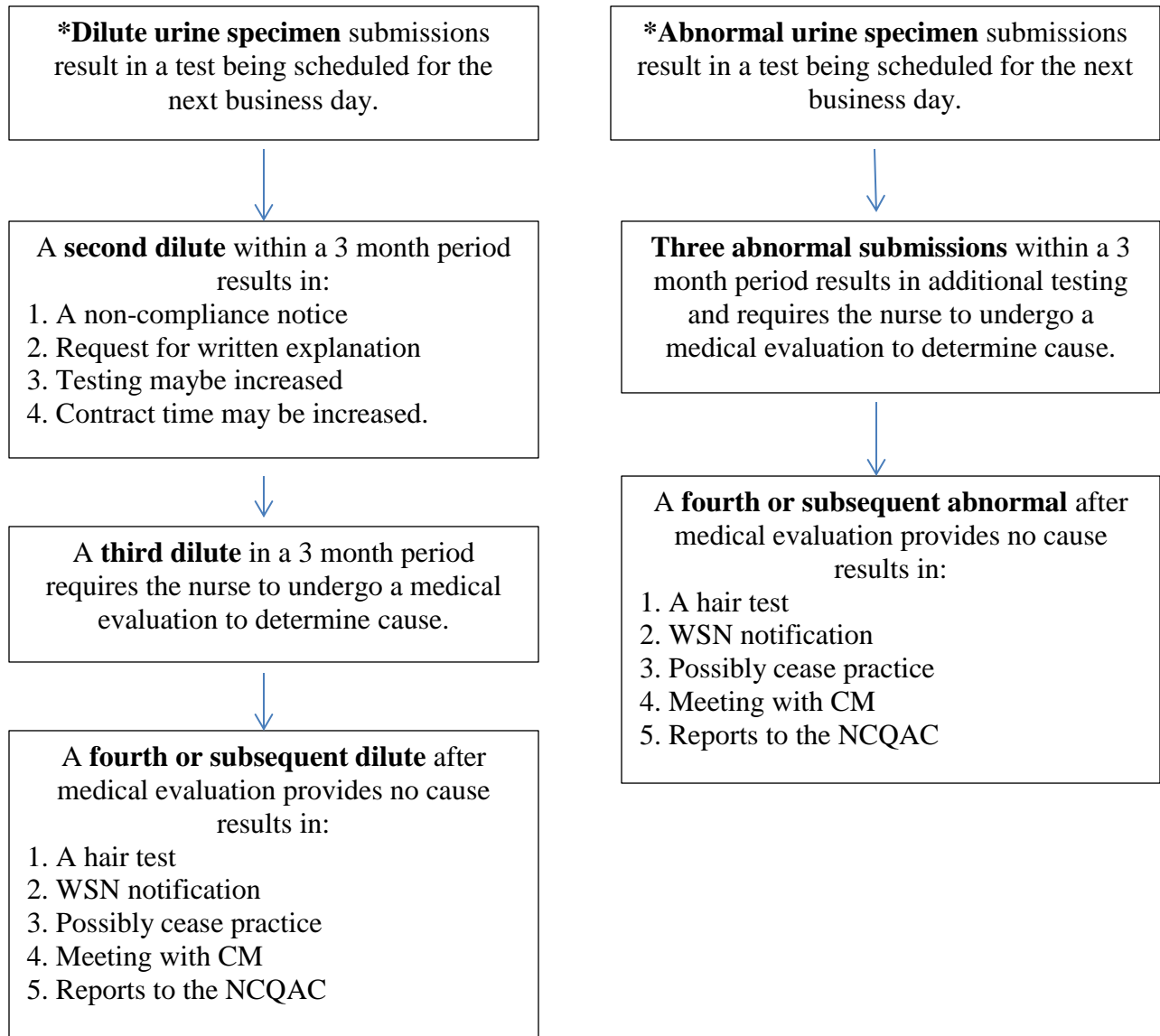
4. Substituted or adulterated specimens

- A. WHPS considers substituted or adulterated specimens as positive tests.

Procedure 20.01: Dilute and Abnormal Urine Specimens

Process Chart

1. Urine specific gravity below 1.003 in conjunction with a creatinine level lower than 20 mg/dl constitutes a **dilute test specimen**.
2. When either the specific gravity or creatinine level is below threshold constitutes an **abnormal test specimen**.



*WHPS considers a positive test result from a dilute or abnormal specimen as a valid positive result. Substitute or adulterated specimens are considered as positive tests.