

University of Colorado Hospital – Clinical Laboratory
Point of Care Testing Program
Nitrazine pH Paper Competency

Performance Criteria	Meets Criteria		Comments
	Please Initial		
	Yes	No	

Knowledge Demonstration:			
Knows that the nitrazine test is highly sensitive but not specific.			
Knows that false negative results may be produced by prolonged rupture of membranes.			
Knows that false positive results may occur from specimen contamination due to heavy vaginal discharge, blood, cervical mucus, semen, alkaline urine and soap.			
Skill Demonstration:			
Checks expiration date of nitrazine paper. Knows nitrazine paper is acceptable for use until the manufacturer expiration date on container.			
Establishes proper, positive patient identification such as patient name and encounter number before procuring the specimen for testing.			
Obtains patient sample of noted discharge.			
Applies specimen to nitrazine paper.			
Immediately matches the color of the nitrazine paper to the closest color on the pH color chart provided.			
Correctly interprets patient results. Knows that a pH of 7.0 or 7.5 indicates positive amniotic fluid and a pH of 6.5 or less indicates negative for amniotic fluid.			
Records patient results on medical chart.			
States location of test instruction (procedure) manual and has general knowledge of content.			

Employee Name (print): _____ Employee #: _____ Unit: _____

*Employee Signature: _____ Position: _____

* By my signature, I certify that am not color-blind.

Evaluator Signature: _____ Initials: _____ Date: _____