Procedure G-3: Handling of Specimens

I. Use of Biohazard "Sharps" Containers in the Clinic

A. PPE

Please see the *Precautions for Preventing Exposure* section in *Policy G*. Staff should glove before handling and collecting specimens if there is any possibility of contact with body fluids.

B. Storage

Urine, blood or body fluid specimens collected for transport to outside lab should be placed in a specimen two-compartment biohazard bag and then in the lab refrigerator or container labeled with biohazard sticker. This will prevent contamination of laboratory request form with the specimen.
Specimen containers shall be labeled or color coded in accordance with the OSHA requirements.

C. Disposal

After in-clinic testing, any urine specimens must be disposed of in a toilet. As possible avoid using clinic sink for the disposal of urine. If clinic sink is used it must be cleaned with a disinfectant cleaning agent immediately after.
Empty specimen collection containers should be disposed in regular clinic garbage.

D. Decontamination

1. Care must be taken to avoid contamination on the outside of collection containers. If the outside of a specimen container is visibly contaminated with blood, it should be cleaned with an appropriate disinfectant.
2. If any contact with blood, urine or other body secretions is made, the worker shall wash immediately.
3. Clinic work surfaces must be decontaminated with disinfectant following any spill of potentially infectious material and at the completion of work activities.