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DEPARTMENT: NURSING

LEVEL: 200

COURSE CODE: PHS 212

 ASSIGNMENT

WRITE A SHORT NOTE ON THE CHARACTERISTICS (AND COMPONENTS) OF URINE

Color; typically yellow-amber, but varies according to recent diet and the concentration of the urine.

Smell: generally, fresh urine has a stronger odor similar to that of ammonia.

The pH of normal urine is generally in the range 4.6 – 8, with a typical average being around 6.0. much of the variation occurs due to diet.

Density; density is also known as specific gravity. This is the ratio of the weight of a volume of substance compared with the weight of the same volume of distilled water. The density of urine ranges from 0.001 to 0.035.

Turbidity: the turbidity of the urine sample is gauged subjectively and reported as clear, slightly cloudy, cloudy, opaque or flocculent.

COMPONENTS

Over 99% of urinary solutes are composed of only 68 chemicals which have a concentration of 10mg/L or more. 42 compounds are actually involved. They may be classified as follows:

Electrolytes such as sodium, potassium, calcium, magnesium and chloride

Nitrogenous chemicals such as urea and creatinine

Vitamins

Hormones

Organic acids such as uric acid other organic compounds

Human urine consists primarily of water (91% to 96%), with organic solutes including urea, creatinine, uric acid, and trace amounts of enzymes, carbohydrates, hormones, fatty acids, pigments, and mucins, and inorganic ions such as sodium, potassium, chloride, magnesium, calcium, ammonium, sulfates and phosphates.