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DEPT: NURSING SCIENCE

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Urine is a sterile waste product composed of water soluble nitrogen products.  
Physical characteristics of urine:

Characteristics of the urine change, depending on influences such as water intake, exercise, environmental temperature, nutrient intake, and other factors.

* Color: pale yellow to amber
* Odor: odorless
* Volume: 750-2000mL/ 24hour
* pH: 4.5-8.0
* Turbidity: urine turbidity is gauged subjectively and reported as clear, slightly cloudy, opaque or

flocculent. Excess turbidity results from the presence of suspended particles in the urine. Causes

of abnormal turbidity include: increased cells, urinary tract infections or obstructions.

* Osmolarity: 40-1350 mOsmol/kg
* Density: Density is also known as “specific gravity.” This is the ratio of the weight of a volume of a substance compared with the weight of the same volume of distilled water. The density of normal urine ranges from 0.001 to 0.035.

**Components of urine:**

* Urobilinogen: 0.2- 1.0 mg/100mL
* White blood cells: 0-2 HPF (per high power field of microscope)
* Leukocyte esterase: None
* Protein: None or trace
* Bilirubin: less than 0.3mg/100mL
* Ketones: None
* Nitrites: None
* Blood: None
* Glucose: None
* Urine is an aqueous solution of greater than 95% water
* Urea 9.3 g/L.
* Chloride 1.87 g/L.
* Sodium 1.17 g/L.
* Potassium 0.750 g/L.
* Creatinine 0.670 g/L.
* Other dissolved ions, inorganic and organic compounds (proteins, hormones, metabolites).