

## Urine Culture Colony Count - Suggested Reporting Guidelines

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The CMPT committee decided in 1996 to standardize reports (for EQA samples) to a single format and settled on the term " $\_ \times 10^6$  colony forming units per Litre (cfu/L)" because each colony viewed on an agar plate represents  $1 \times 10^6$ /L when 1  $\mu$ L of urine is dispensed and tested.

By working with a single unit structure it reduces the opportunity for reporting error, especially if physicians receive reports from several different laboratories. CMPT recommends that laboratories 'consider' standardizing the reporting of clinical samples in a similar fashion.

To convert SI Units	American style 'old style'
$1 \times 10^6$ /L =	$10^3$ /mL
$10 \times 10^6$ /L =	$10^4$ /mL
$100 \times 10^6$ /L =	$10^5$ /mL
$> 100 \times 10^6$ /L =	$> 10^5$ /mL

A maximum grade of 4 is usually assigned to reporting of an accurate colony count for Clinical Bacteriology urine samples.