

BLOOD CULTURE COLLECTION

Blood cultures should be collected prior to beginning antibiotic therapy. If this is not possible, blood should be drawn immediately before administering the next antibiotic dose. Bacteremia is intermittent and may precede episodes of fever and chills by about 1 hour. It is recommended that two culture sets (each from a different body site be collected). The first sample should be collected at the first sign of fever.

1. SKIN PREPARATION

To avoid the potential for false positive blood cultures, properly disinfect the puncture site as follows:

1. Cleanse the skin with 70% alcohol (30 sec), then swab concentrically with 2% iodine solution (60 sec). Allow to dry.

<OR>

2. Cleanse the skin with 70% alcohol (30 sec), then swab concentrically with Chlorhexidine gluconate (60 sec). Allow to dry. **Do not use this solution on infants less than two months of age.**

NOTE: Once disinfected, the venipuncture site should not be probed with a finger of the glove unless it has been similarly decontaminated, or unless **sterile** surgical gloves are worn.

2. COLLECTION OF BLOOD FOR AEROBIC AND ANAEROBIC CULTURES

1. Submit both an aerobic (silver cap) bottle and anaerobic (red cap) bottle for each culture ordered.
2. Disinfect visible part of rubber stopper with 70% alcohol or iodine preparation.

Allow disinfectant to set for 1 minute.

3. Using a needle and syringe obtain as follows:

Adults: 10-20 mL Divide equally between bottles

Children: 1- 6 mL Divide equally between bottles

4. Using aseptic technique, transfer the blood immediately into the blood culture bottle(s), dividing the blood evenly between the two bottles.

Do not change needle.

Do not put more than 10 mL blood in a bottle.

NOTE: If only 0.5 mL of blood is obtained, dispense the entire amount into the aerobic (silver cap) bottle.

5. MAINTAIN BOTTLES AT ROOM TEMPERATURE. DO NOT REFRIGERATE.



COLLECTION OF BLOOD OR BONE MARROW FOR ACID FAST BACILLI CULTURE

- Collect blood in sodium heparin (green) top vacutainer tubes.
- Send the heparin tubes at room temperature to the lab within 24 hours.
- If blood for other procedures is to be drawn also, obtain the specimen for culture first to minimize the potential for contamination of the culture.

COLLECTION OF BLOOD FOR FUNGUS CULTURE

- Collect blood in aerobic and anaerobic blood bottles as described above.
- Note on the requisition that culture for fungus is requested.
- Culture will be held for four weeks, with a preliminary report at two weeks.

COLLECTION OF BLOOD OR BONE MARROW FOR VIRAL CULTURE

- Contact Send Outs department for specific viral test requirements.
- Do not submit aerobic and anaerobic blood culture bottles for viral culture.