

2 User Instructions

2.5 Blood Culture Collection Instructions

Please follow the following directions when collecting blood culture specimens:

1. Preferably to be taken before the patient starts an antibiotic.
2. Blue cap denotes aerobic bottle, purple cap anaerobic bottle.
3. Use both bottles for adults; use the blue bottle only for paediatrics.
4. Blood cultures collected out of hours should be sent to the laboratory immediately.
5. Blood cultures are inspected daily (including bank holidays and weekends) and clinical staff are notified of any positive findings.

Step one: Skin preparation

- Wash your hands with soap and water then dry.
- Clean any visibly soiled skin on the patient with soap and water then dry.
- Apply a disposable tourniquet (if applicable) and palpate to identify vein.
- Clean skin with a 2% chlorhexidine in 70% isopropyl alcohol impregnated swab and allow to dry.
- If a culture is being collected from a central venous catheter, disinfect the access port with a 2% chlorhexidine in 70% isopropyl alcohol impregnated swab.



Step two: Kit preparation

- Label bottles with appropriate patient information. Ensure that barcodes on the bottles are not covered by additional labels and that any tear-off barcode labels are not removed.
- Clean the tops of culture bottles with a 2% chlorhexidine in 70% isopropyl alcohol impregnated swab and allow to dry.



Step 3: Sample collection – use either method A or B as outlined below

A: NEEDLE AND SYRINGE METHOD

- Wash and dry your hands again or use alcohol hand rub and apply clean examination gloves (sterile gloves are not necessary).
- Insert needle. **Do not palpate again after cleaning.**
- Collect sample and release tourniquet.
- Cover the puncture site with an appropriate dressing.
- If blood is being collected for other tests, always inoculate the blood culture bottles first.
- Inoculate blood into culture bottles; do not change the needle between sample collection and inoculation; inoculate anaerobic culture first.
- Discard needle and syringe in a sharps container.
- Wash hands after removing gloves.
- Record the procedure with indication for culture, time, site of venepuncture and any complications in the patient's record.

OR B: WINGED BLOOD COLLECTION METHOD

- Wash and dry your hands again or use alcohol hand rub and apply clean examination gloves (sterile gloves are not necessary).
- Attach winged blood collection set to blood collection adapter cap.
- Insert needle into prepared site. **Do not palpate again after cleaning.**
- Place adapter cap over blood collection bottle and pierce septum.
- Hold bottle upright and use bottle graduation lines to accurately gauge sample volume and collect sample; inoculate aerobic culture first.
- If blood is being collected for other tests, always collect the blood culture first.
- Cover the puncture site with an appropriate dressing.
- Discard winged blood collection set in a sharps container.
- Wash hands after removing gloves.
- Record the procedure with indication for culture, time, site of venepuncture and any complications in the patient's record.