

BLOOD CULTURE COLLECTION

Specimens for blood cultures must be submitted in blood culture bottles.

1. Select the best possible vein for venipuncture by inspection and/or palpation.
 2. Remove the protective flip top overcap from bottle. **Wipe off the top of each bottle with an alcohol swab** and allow to dry for one minute before placing blood into the bottle.
 3. Apply the tourniquet.
 4. ****Scrub method for chloraprep applicators** (*Note: Not for patients under 2 months of age. See Betadine method*):
 - Scrub the site using the chloraprep applicators. Applicators are available from our Supplies Department. Scrub in a back and forth motion for 30 seconds, and then allow to air dry. **Do not wipe chloraprep dry. Do not palpate vein after scrub.**
 - Go to Step 1.
 - ****Betadine method and patients under 2 months old:**
Scrub the site using an alcohol pad working outward from venipuncture site in a circular motion. After the alcohol prep, scrub the site using a betadine pad working outward from the venipuncture site in a circular motion. For patients with iodine sensitivity, cleanse with alcohol for 60 seconds. Do a second betadine scrub with a fresh pad scrubbing outward from the venipuncture site in a circular motion. **The betadine should be allowed to dry.** Do not palpate the vein after the second scrub. Do not wipe the betadine dry, as this will contaminate the site.
1. Perform venipuncture using a sterile needle and syringe and appropriate transfer device, or Vacutainer adapter with 21g butterfly. When using Vacutainer adapter, it cannot be a direct draw; the butterfly must be used to provide the space between culture media and vein.
 2. The ideal volume of blood collected is 20 mL (10 mL in aerobic bottle and 10 mL in anaerobic bottle). Refer to chart below to determine which bottles to fill.
 3. Do not introduce air from syringe into the anaerobic (orange) bottle. Both the light green and orange bottles should be filled in most cases. The yellow bottle should only be used for pediatric collections or in cases of extremely difficult collections.

Volume of Blood	Bottles to Fill
11-20 mL	light green and orange (1/2 blood volume in each)
4.0-10 mL	light green (All blood in one bottle)
1.0-4.0 mL	Yellow (All blood in one bottle)
Less than 1.0 mL	Quantity not sufficient for culture

- Label bottles with required identification. **Do not cover the bar code printed on the bottle.** Swirl bottles gently to mix, but do not vent. **Keep at room temperature;** please **do not incubate.**

A preliminary report will be issued on the second day of receipt. A final report on routine negative cultures is issued on day 6. Note on the requisition if Brucella is suspected. If Fungus is suspected order Fungal Blood Culture (BLOD1097)