

BLOOD CULTURE COLLECTION

Preprocedure

- Verify orders
- Gather supplies
- Perform hand hygiene
- Identify patient with 2 patient identifiers (or per policy)
- Explain procedure to patient
- Raise bed to a comfortable working height

Procedure

Supplies

- All supplies for venipuncture
 - Antiseptic scrub
- Two sets of blood culture bottles
- Alcohol pads
- Needle or transfer device for getting blood into the bottles
- Patient labels

Obtain blood from patient via orders

- If obtaining via venipuncture, scrub skin with antiseptic scrub for a FULL minute and let dry
- Do NOT touch the skin after cleansing

If using a butterfly directly from patient into bottle:

- Fill **aerobic** bottle first
- Minimum 5 mL in each

If using syringe method

- Attach needle and purge air out of needle until a drop of blood is seen
- Fill **anaerobic** bottle first, then fill **aerobic** bottle
- Minimum 5 mL in each
- Do NOT allow large air bubbles to enter the anaerobic bottle
- Label bottles with time, date, initial and patient identifying information

Pro Tips

Blood cultures should be drawn from two sites, preferably on opposite sides if possible.

Blood cultures should NEVER be drawn off an existing line without explicit orders from a provider.

A positive culture from an existing line assumes the line itself is infected.

Postprocedure

- Discard sharps in the sharps container
- Discard all used supplies in the appropriate waste container
- Remove and dispose of gloves
- Perform hand hygiene
- Return bed to low & locked position
- Ensure patient is comfortable

