

Huddle Card

Obtaining Blood Cultures in Adult Patients

ONLY use
Central Line
with a written
order

Procedure Steps

1. Follow Phlebotomy Basic technique (see back)
2. Blood cultures should be obtained via peripheral venipuncture. **PIV not used** and Central line should **only be used with an order**.
3. Using aseptic non-touch technique, prepare skin site for percutaneous venipuncture according to facility protocol.
4. Vigorously scrub the area (radius of 5cm (2inches) with facility approved antiseptic for **30 seconds in a back and forth motion**.
5. *Allow skin to air-dry completely **30 sec. minimum. DO NOT palpate or otherwise touch site during this time, even if you are wearing sterile gloves.***
6. Mark culture bottles as desired fill level per lab instructions. **Ensure bottles are labeled at bedside with patient identification.**
7. Remove plastic caps from culture bottles and clean diaphragm tops with alcohol swabs to remove surface bacteria.
8. **Using aseptic non-touch technique, perform venipuncture. Do not touch the cleaned skin.**
9. Clean the top of the **black top vacutainer** with alcohol swabs to remove surface bacteria, and use as discard tube, **DISCARD Initial 1ml on adults only (18yrs and older).**
10. Gently aspirate syringe plunger to fill to desired volume, if using a syringe.
11. If collecting blood directly into sample bottle, attach aerobic bottle (**blue/grey top**) first to Vacutainer and fill to 10-ml mark. Remove bottle and gently **invert 8-10 times**. The vacuum in the bottles will usually exceed 10ml, so remove bottle quickly to prevent entire sample from being inoculated into a single bottle.
12. Repeat with anaerobic (**gold/orange**) bottle.
13. Place a piece of sterile gauze over winged infusion set or needle and withdraw needle.
14. Maintain pressure until bleeding stops to avoid hematoma formation. Apply a small bandage or tape over sterile gauze.
15. Discard needle/winged infusion set to biohazard container.
16. **Label specimens in patient's presence. Include collector 3/4ID on specimen label.**
17. Place culture bottles in biohazard transport bag.
18. Complete lab requisition slip.
19. **Arrange for prompt transport of specimens to lab.**

See page 2 for
Phlebotomy
Basics

Post Procedure

- Discard soiled gloves and other used materials according to the facility protocol.
- Clean equipment if there has been patient contact.
- **Perform hand hygiene.**

[Dynamic Health Blood Culture Skills](#)

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Must be on Network Access
Know your % ID and password



Huddle Card

Phlebotomy Basics

- 1. Gather Supplies** (*appropriate tubes, gloves, alcohol swabs, gauze, tourniquet, blood-sampling device [safety-engineered devices or needles/syringes, biohazard bag]*)
- 2. Identify and Prepare Patient** (*confirm patient with patient identifiers and explain procedure*)
- 3. Select Site for Specimen Collection** (*antecubital is most common site for blood collection*)
- 4. Perform hand hygiene and put on gloves**
- 5. Disinfect site** with the recommended CHG cleansing wand vigorously scrub the area (radius of 5cm (2inches) **for 30 seconds** in back and forth motion. **Allow skin to air-dry completely 30 sec. minim.** **Do not palpate or otherwise touch** site during this time, even if you are wearing sterile gloves.
- 6. Blood Collection**
 - o Apply the tourniquet 2–4 inches (5–10 cm) proximal to/above the insertion site using a quick-release knot
 - o Anchor the vein with non-dominant hand by holding the patient's arm and placing a thumb just below the venipuncture site.
 - o Ask patient to form a fist to make veins more noticeable.
 - o Enter the vein swiftly at a 30 degree angle or less, and continue to introduce the needle along the vein at the easiest angle of entry.
 - o Once sufficient blood has been collected, release the tourniquet before withdrawing the needle. Some guidelines suggest removing the tourniquet as soon as blood flow is established, and always before it has been in place for two minutes or more.
 - o Withdraw the needle gently and apply gentle pressure to the site with a clean gauze or dry cotton-wool ball. Ask the patient to hold the gauze or cotton wool in place, with the arm extended and raised. Ask the patient NOT to bend the arm, because doing so causes a hematoma.
- 7. Fill Sample Tubes in Correct Order** (*see other page*)
- 8. Clean Surfaces and Complete Patient Procedure** (*Check the label and forms for accuracy.*)
- 9. Prepare for Transporting Samples** (*Pack laboratory samples safely in a plastic leak-proof bag with an outside compartment for the laboratory request form. Placing the requisition on the outside helps avoid contamination.*)
- 10. Clean Spills of Blood or Body Fluids**