



TITLE: **LAB SPECIMEN COLLECTION INSTRUCTIONS – BLOOD CULTURES**

EFFECTIVE DATE: 06/28/19

PERFORMED BY: Resource for Specimen Collection

MANUAL: Specimen Collection Manual

FORMULATED BY: Lab Phlebotomy Supervisor

---

### **BLOOD CULTURE COLLECTIONS**

Have patient state name & DOB. Minimum of 2 appropriate identifiers must be used for patient ID & specimen label.

#### If using Electronic identification device:

- Scan patient's hospital armband, perform blood draw, & label Blood Culture (BC) bottles with the printed label.
- Complete the collection process in the Computer System by scanning each labeled container.
- This is all done at bedside at time of draw.

#### If not using an electronic identification device:

- Use patient label / chart label. Have patient state name & DOB. Assure that the patient's stated name & DOB matches the label and the hospital armband. Use minimum of 2 appropriate identifiers when identifying the patient & labeling containers. Perform blood draw & label containers. Write date/time of draw & collector ID on the specimen labels. This is all done at bedside at time of draw. Complete collection process in computer.

#### DISINFECTING process before blood draw:

- **Blood Culture Bottle Prep:** Cleanse top of bottle with alcohol pad. Allow to dry for 1 minute before transferring blood into bottle. Use different alcohol wipe for each bottle.
- **ADULTS:** Use Chloro-Prep applicator to disinfect the venipuncture site.
  1. First, cleanse draw site with Alcohol.
  2. Then, cleanse site using Chloro-Prep applicator: Cleanse for 30 full seconds using back and forth scrubbing motion.
  3. Do not contaminate area after cleansing. Allow site to dry completely (at least 30 seconds).
  4. If you must retouch vein, cleanse (gloved) finger with alcohol & a new/separate chlora-prep applicator -in same manner as arm/hand disinfecting process.

- **CHILDREN GREATER THAN 2 MONTHS OF AGE:** Same disinfecting process as Adults.
- **NEONATES LESS THAN 2 MONTHS OF AGE:** DO NOT use the Chloro-Prep (one step) Prep Kit on patients less than 2 months old (due to skin irritation and increased drug absorption).

Use Povidone-Iodine and alcohol to disinfect puncture site.

1. Cleanse site thoroughly with alcohol pad first.
2. Cleanse site with 1<sup>st</sup> Betadine pad minimum of 30 seconds (to 60 seconds). Discard
3. Cleanse site with 2<sup>nd</sup> Betadine pad minimum of 30 seconds (to 60 seconds). **Allow site to dry a minimum, of 30 seconds or until completely dry.**

BLOOD DRAW is performed after completing disinfecting process:

- Cleanse blood culture bottles and site as stated above in the disinfecting process.
- Aerobic (Silver Cap) BC Bottle and 1 Anaerobic (Red Cap) BC Bottle is considered “ONE SET”
- Recommended procedure is to obtain two sets of blood culture bottles from two different sites (15 min apart or as ordered by physician).
- Adults: Fill each bottle with 5 ml of blood – 2 ml minimum for the Aerobic bottle. If you can only get 2 ml put it in Aerobic bottle only. If you can only get 3ml, put 2ml in the Aerobic Bottle and 1ml in the Anaerobic bottle.
- Children (ages 1-5): Same for Children. Collect 1 ml per year of age and divide blood equally between the 2 bottles “with a Minimum of 2ml in the Aerobic Bottle”. So, if you can only get 2 ml of blood, put 2ml in Aerobic bottle only. If you can only get 3ml, put 2ml in the Aerobic Bottle and 1ml in the Anaerobic bottle.
- Neonates: Fill each bottle with minimum of 0.5 ml of blood. If only 0.5 ml was the entire collection volume, inject this into the aerobic (silver) bottle only.

LABELING:

- Label the blank side of the bottle with the patient identification label.
- Avoid covering the bottle’s bar code with the patient’s identification label.
- Place the patient identification label vertically on bottle.
- Write the SITE of blood collection on the label, the collection date and time, and the collector’s initials.
- Assure that the collection process is completed in computer system.

TRANSPORT OF BLOOD CULTURES

- Phlebotomy team will walk blood culture bottles back to the lab.
- Floors do not sent blood cultures via tube station:
  1. Only “designated areas” are allowed to use the blood culture bottle transporters.
  2. Place BC bottle in the protective BC bottle transporter; then place this in a sealed extra-large biohazard bag
  3. Place the purple carrier & biohazard bag in the tube station carrier & tube to lab.

<b>Document Owner:</b>	Phlebotomy Supervisor
<b>Document Approver:</b>	Laboratory Medical Director
<b>Original Issue Date:</b>	11/26/07
<b>Review Dates:</b>	Previous review dates; 11/26/07, 12/06/08, 08/03/09, 09/06/10, 06/06/11, 06/05/12, 06/06/11, 08/14/13, 08/10/14, 08/25/15, 07/26/16, 11/08/16, 11/05/18, 06/28/19

<b>Revision Dates:</b>	08/10/14 Cleanse blood culture bottle with alcohol & allow to dry 1 min 08/25/15 Removed this table at end of procedure. Updated effective date in header. 07/26/16 Minimum 2ml in aerobic bottle. 11/08/16 Piedmont Header 12/24/18 Updated wording for Epic, drawing/labeling, 2 identifiers. 06/28/19 Added BC transporter (removed purple BC carrier). Cleanse with alcohol before chlora-prep.
------------------------	--