

BLOOD CULTURE COLLECTION GUIDELINES



SUPPLIES NEEDED:

- Tourniquet
- Chloraprep
- Alcohol prep
- Butterfly or syringe
- Gauze, tape or wrap
- Marker
- Blood culture bottles (one **aerobic**, one **anaerobic**)

NOTE: Blood cultures should be drawn prior to additional tests.

DO NOT DRAW BLOOD CULTURE FROM EXISTING PERIPHERAL IV!

1 PREPARE FOR VENIPUNCTURE

Gather needed supplies. Wash hands and don gloves. Apply tourniquet and select vein for blood draw. After vein selection, remove tourniquet. Mark bottles for necessary volumes.

2 DECONTAMINATE

Remove tab from top of bottle. Clean the tops of bottles with alcohol prep by wiping the septum of each bottle and allow to dry. Clean skin with alcohol or Chloraprep. Allow skin to dry for 30 seconds.

3 PERFORM VENIPUNCTURE

Apply tourniquet. Perform venipuncture drawing **aerobic** bottle first, followed by **anaerobic** bottle. Remove tourniquet. Both bottles are required for a blood culture order. In case of a short sample, a **pediatric** bottle is acceptable. Fill to marked volume line.

4 CONCLUDE VENIPUNCTURE

Gently invert bottles immediately after drawing.

5 LABEL BOTTLES

Place label in designated area on each bottle. Label with draw site, date, time and initials.

Note: Do not cover up bottle barcode with patient label. Must have two bottles for culture. If drawing blood cultures from a Central Line, utilize Mosby's Clinical Skills for the procedure