

Blood Culture Collection

Each blood specimen should be placed into a separate blood culture bottle. If antibiotics will be started or changed, two blood cultures should be collected using separate line preparations and separate blood culture bottles. Exception: asymptomatic BMT patients being started on antibiotic prophylaxis for neutropenia do not warrant cultures (unless ill).

Volume recommendation:

Collect at least 1 ml of blood w/ 1 additional ml of blood for each year of age for a max of 10 ml. (See Table below)
Volumes of blood less than 1 ml are generally insufficient for the accurate exclusion of bacteremia. Although we never reject a blood culture, the volume of blood is critical (more is better but don't exceed bottle's upper limit - 3ml pink bottle; 10ml blue bottle)

Collection Procedure:

1. Perform hand hygiene and don gloves.
2. Check patient name and medical record number on label against patient identification band.
3. Scrub top of blood culture bottle(s) with sterile alcohol pad and friction for 15 seconds. LET DRY.
4. Set blood transfer device(s) onto top of each blood culture bottle.
5. Scrub injection cap with sterile alcohol pad and friction for 15 seconds. LET DRY.
6. Clamp central line and, if possible, stop infusions while drawing blood.
7. Attach discard syringe to catheter injection cap.
8. Without flushing, unclamp central line and draw off waste. (Refer to Waste/Discard Volumes in [Blood Culture Collection](#)). Clamp central line and remove waste syringe.
 - A. If no blood return upon drawing back, flushing the lumen with sterile normal saline may be attempted.
9. Scrub catheter injection cap with sterile alcohol pad and friction for 15 seconds. Let dry.
10. Attach specimen syringe and draw off blood volume needed for culture. (See Table)
Vol limits: **Pink bottle** – 1-3 ml **Blue bottle** - >3 ml up to 10 ml
11. Clamp central line and remove specimen syringe.
12. Connect specimen syringe to blood culture transfer device and allow blood to flow into bottle.
13. If drawing a second specimen from the same line and lumen, repeat the following steps:
 - A. Scrub catheter injection cap with sterile alcohol pad and friction for 15 seconds. Let dry.
 - B. Attach specimen syringe and draw off blood volume needed for culture. See Table.
 - C. Clamp central line and remove culture sample.
 - D. Connect specimen syringe to second blood culture transfer device and allow blood to flow into second bottle. See Table.
14. Flush line per procedure.
15. Restart any infusions that were halted for the procedure.

Bottle and Volume Selection Chart		
Age	mLs needed per bottle	Blood Culture Bottle Type
Birth - < 1 year	1mL	(PINK) BD Bactec Peds Plus
1year	2mL	(PINK) BD Bactec Peds Plus
2year	3mL	(PINK) BD Bactec Peds Plus
3year	4mL	(BLUE) BD Bactec Plus
etc.	Etc	(BLUE) BD Bactec Plus
9y and Older	10mL	(BLUE) BD Bactec Plus

For more information, review the CHCO [Blood Culture Collection](#) Policy