



**Blood Culture Collection Guidelines
Peripheral Blood Cultures
7/2010**

Blood Culture Collection Policy:

Each blood specimen should be placed into a separate PedsPlus 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.

Volume recommendation:

Collect at least 1 ml of blood with one additional ml of blood for each year of age for a maximum 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).

Collection Procedure:

Technique #1 – syringe or butterfly

Step 1 - Clean top of blood culture bottle with alcohol prep pad and friction for 15 seconds. Let dry.

Step 2 - Set blood transfer device onto top of blood culture bottle.

Step 3 - SCRUB skin for 30 SECONDS, using a back and forth motion, with the Chlorhexidine/alcohol skin prep product.

Step 4 - ALLOW TO DRY. (Do not remove with alcohol.)

Step 5 - Do not palpate directly over insertion site after prepping the skin. If this is necessary, you must use a sterile glove.

Step 6 - Using safety syringe, perform venipuncture and draw specimen. If using butterfly, attach syringe to end of butterfly and perform venipuncture. Obtain blood culture sample.

Step 7 - Syringe: Remove needle from pt. Activate safety-glide cover over needle. Remove the protected needle from syringe. Butterfly: Remove butterfly from patient, and activate safety feature to protect needle. Remove specimen syringe.

Pink bottle - 1-3 ml

Blue bottle - >3 ml up to 10 ml

***If the blood is also going to be used for other labs, please put into blood culture bottle first and then into other lab tubes.*

Step 8 - Attach specimen syringe onto top of blood transfer device. Press and hold in place to transfer blood into culture bottle.

Step 9 - Remove transfer device from blood culture bottle and discard with syringe into sharps container. If drawing more than one culture, use a new transfer device and blood culture bottle for each.

Technique #2 – during peripheral IV insertion Attach specimen syringe to T-connector (maintain sterility).

Step 1 - Clean top of blood culture bottle with alcohol prep pad and friction for 15 seconds. Let dry.

Step 2 - Set blood transfer device onto top of blood culture bottle.

Step 3 - SCRUB skin for 30 SECONDS, using a back and forth motion, with the Chlorhexidine/alcohol skin prep product. ALLOW TO DRY. (Do not remove with alcohol.)

Step 4 - Do not palpate directly over insertion site after prepping the skin. If this is necessary, you must use a sterile glove.

Step 5 - Insert and secure IV, remove needle, activate safety feature and then attach T-connector to the IV.

Step 6 - Attach syringe to T connector and draw specimen.

Step 7 - Clamp T-connector and remove specimen syringe from T-connector and attach onto top of blood transfer device. Press and hold in place to transfer blood into bottle.

Step 8 - Remove transfer device from blood culture bottle and discard with syringe into sharps container. If drawing more than one culture, use a new transfer device and blood culture bottle for each.

Step 9 - Remove blood transfer device from blood culture bottle and discard with syringes into sharps container.

For more information, review the associated Blood Culture policy published on Planet TCH

<http://planetch/policiesfitz/general/pdf/5801.pdf>

Age	Minimum mls Needed Per Each Blood Culture	Blood Culture Bottle Type
0y (less than 1y)	1ml	(Pink) BD Bactec Peds Plus
1y	2ml	(Pink) BD Bactec Peds Plus
2y	3ml	(Pink) BD Bactec Peds Plus
3y	4ml	(Blue) BD Bactec Plus
etc.	etc	(Blue) BD Bactec Plus
9y and older	10ml	(Blue) BD Bactec Plus