



# Recommendations for blood culture collection

a summary of good practice

## Using winged blood collection set

### 1> Prepare blood collection kit

Gather all materials before beginning the procedure. Ensure the blood culture bottles are within date. Do not use bottles which show any signs of damage, deterioration or contamination.



### 2> Prepare bottles for inoculation

Wash hands with soap and water then dry, or apply an alcohol hand rub. Remove the plastic "flip-cap" from the blood culture bottles and disinfect the septum using an appropriate disinfectant, such as 2% chlorhexidine in 70% isopropyl alcohol, 70% isopropyl alcohol, or iodine in swab or applicator form. Use a fresh swab/applicator for each bottle. Allow bottle tops to dry in order to fully disinfect.



### 3> Prepare venipuncture site

Confirm the patient's identity. If skin is visibly soiled, clean with soap and water. Apply a disposable tourniquet. Palpate to identify the vein and cleanse using an appropriate disinfectant, such as 2% chlorhexidine in 70% isopropyl alcohol, 70% isopropyl alcohol, or iodine in swab or applicator form. **The venipuncture site is not fully clean until the disinfectant has fully evaporated.**



### 4> Wash hands. Wear gloves.

Wash hands again or use an alcohol hand-rub and apply clean examination gloves. Sterile gloves are not necessary.



### 5> Venipuncture

Attach a winged blood collection set to a collection adapter cap. **To prevent contaminating the puncture site, do not re-palpate the prepared vein before inserting the needle.** Insert the needle into the prepared site.



### 6> Culture bottle inoculation

Place the adapter cap over the aerobic bottle and press down to pierce the septum. Hold the bottle upright and use the graduation lines to accurately gauge sample volume. Add up to 10 ml of blood per adult bottle and up to 4 ml per pediatric bottle. Once the aerobic bottle has been inoculated, remove the adapter cap and repeat the procedure for the anaerobic bottle. **The use of blood collection adapters without blood collection sets is not recommended.**



### 7> Other blood tests

If blood is being collected for other tests, place an insert into the adapter cap. The insert is used to guide blood collection tubes onto the needle. **If other blood tests are required, always collect the blood culture first.**



### 8> Finish the procedure

Discard the winged collection set into a sharps container and cover the puncture site with an appropriate dressing. Remove gloves and wash hands before recording the procedure, including indication for culture, time, site of venipuncture, and any complications. **Ensure additional labels do not cover the bottle barcodes and that the tear-off barcode labels are not removed.**



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## Using needle and syringe

### 1> Prepare blood collection kit

Gather all materials before beginning the procedure. Ensure the blood culture bottles are within date. Do not use bottles which show any signs of damage, deterioration or contamination.



### 2> Prepare bottles for inoculation

Wash hands with soap and water then dry, or apply an alcohol hand rub. Remove the plastic "flip-cap" from the blood culture bottles and disinfect the septum using an appropriate disinfectant, such as 2% chlorhexidine in 70% isopropyl alcohol, 70% isopropyl alcohol, or iodine in swab or applicator form. Use a fresh swab/applicator for each bottle. Allow bottle tops to dry in order to fully disinfect.



### 3> Prepare venipuncture site

Confirm the patient's identity. If skin is visibly soiled, clean with soap and water. Apply a disposable tourniquet. Palpate to identify the vein and cleanse using an appropriate disinfectant, such as 2% chlorhexidine in 70% isopropyl alcohol, 70% isopropyl alcohol, or iodine in swab or applicator form. **The venipuncture site is not fully clean until the disinfectant has fully evaporated.**



### 4> Wash hands. Wear gloves.

Wash hands again or use an alcohol hand-rub and apply clean examination gloves. Sterile gloves are not necessary.



### 5> Venipuncture

Attach the needle to a syringe. **To prevent contaminating the puncture site, do not re-palpate the prepared vein before inserting the needle.** Carefully insert the needle into the vein.



### 6> Culture bottle inoculation

Collect the sample. Transfer the blood into the culture bottles, starting with the anaerobic bottle. Hold the bottle upright and use the graduation lines to accurately gauge sample volume. Add up to 10 ml of blood per adult bottle and up to 4 ml per pediatric bottle.



### 7> Finish the procedure

Discard the needle and syringe into a sharps container and cover the puncture site with an appropriate dressing. Remove gloves and wash hands before recording the procedure, including indication for culture, time, site of venipuncture, and any complications. **Ensure additional labels do not cover the bottle barcodes and that the tear-off barcode labels are not removed.**



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