

Blood Culture Collection

Where do I collect them?

- Peripheral venipuncture.
- New CVC upon insertion before the drape is taken down.
- NEVER from an established CVC or PIV.

What supplies do I need?

- Blood culture bottles, sterile gloves, alcohol swabs, CHG prep, tourniquet, butterfly set, 20ml leur-lock syringe, and a transfer set.

How do I prep the bottles?

- Take the tops off the bottles and scrub with alcohol, allowing them to fully dry.
- Do not touch the tops after cleaning with alcohol.

How do I prep the site?

- Clean site with alcohol and allow to fully dry, then clean with CHG.
- Do not fan or touch the site after cleaning!

I think I might have contaminated this sample. Should I send it anyway?

- No. This could lead to a falsely positive culture and unnecessary antibiotics.

I can't get these cultures. How do I escalate this?

- 2 nurses attempt 2 sticks before asking fellow for assistance
- IV therapy- STAT request