

Blood Culture Dos and Don'ts



Perform hand hygiene



Draw blood prior to starting antibiotics



Choose peripheral venipuncture over line draw



Perform skin disinfection/antiseptis and let fully dry



Clean the top of each blood culture bottle (with a separate alcohol swab)



Divert/waste initial 1-2mL of potentially contaminated blood (per CDC recommendations)



Fill aerobic bottle first



Draw 2 sets of blood cultures



Put 8-10 mL of blood per blood culture bottle



Invert bottles several times to mix patient's blood with broth



Promptly transport specimen to the lab



Under-fill blood culture bottle



Palpate/touch patient's skin after disinfection



Use a needle to transfer blood into the culture bottle



Draw blood cultures directly with a blood culture holder cap and vacutainer needle



Use the same alcohol pad to clean both culture bottles



Use a blood culture bottle with cloudy broth