



## Blood Culture

### Collection Procedure

1. Gather the blood bottles needed (blue and orange capped bottles).
2. Pop the tops off of the bottles. Swab the tops of each blood culture bottle with alcohol. Do not allow alcohol to pool, as it could enter the system and kill organisms. Allow to dry while preparing the patient.
3. Apply the tourniquet.
4. Put on gloves.
5. Cleanse the venipuncture site.
  - Use a 70% alcohol pad to clean in a circular area over the site, using strokes from inside to outside for a diameter of 2 to 3 inches.
  - Crush the capsule of a ChloroPrep. Clean the area with a ChloroPrep using a back and forth scrubbing motion. Scrub for 30 seconds.
  - Allow ChloroPrep to dry for 30 seconds.
6. Perform the venipuncture using a sterile needle and syringe.
7. Place a gauze pad over the puncture site.
8. Apply pressure to the venipuncture site making sure bleeding has stopped and then bandage the site.
9. Inoculate blood into the bottles.
  - Aerobic (blue cap): 8-10 mL of blood.\*
  - Anaerobic (orange cap): 8-10 mL of blood.\*  
\*minimum is 5.0 mL of blood for each bottle
  - Pediatric (blue cap): 0.5-4 mL of blood.
  - Fungal (blue cap): 8-10 mL of blood.
10. Wipe the tops of bottles with clean alcohol pads if blood remains on the rubber septum after inoculation.
11. Label the blood culture bottles with patient identification.
12. Document on the label the following information:
  - Total volume drawn
  - Initials and employee number of the person drawing the blood
  - How the culture was drawn, arterial or venous
13. Transport to the lab within one hour. Hold at room temperature if transport must be delayed.