**RECOMMENDATIONS FOR BLOOD CULTURE COLLECTION**

**STEP 1 | CHECK PATIENT ID AND PREPARE MATERIALS**
- Confirm the patient’s identity.
- Prepare the collection kit.
- Do not inoculate bottles past their expiration date.
- Do not use bottles showing signs of damage, deterioration, or contamination.
- Identify the fill-to mark or mark the target fill level on the label.

**STEP 2 | PREPARE BOTTLES FOR INOCULATION**
- Wash hands or use an alcohol hand rub.
- Remove the plastic “flip-cap”.
- Disinfect the bottle septum and allow to dry.

**STEP 3 | PREPARE VENIPUNCTURE SITE**
- Apply a disposable tourniquet.
- Palpate to find a vein.
- Apply clean examination gloves.
- Disinfect the skin.
- Allow the site to air dry.

**STEP 4 | VENIPUNCTURE**
- Attach the collection set to the adapter cap.*
- To prevent contamination, do not re-palpate.
- Insert the needle into the prepared vein.
- Collect the aerobic bottle first.
- Place adapter cap over bottle top.
- Press straight down to pierce septum.
- Hold the bottle upright below the venipuncture site.†
- Collect 10 mL of blood per adult bottle or up to 4 mL per pediatric bottle.
- Ensure the bottle is correctly filled to the Fill-to Mark or target fill level, as shown.
- Repeat for the anaerobic bottle.

**STEP 5 | BOTTLE INOCULATION**
- Always collect blood cultures first.
- If the adapter cap used requires an insert, place the insert into the cap before collecting blood for other tests.
- Discard the collection set into a sharps container and cover the puncture site.
- Remove gloves and wash hands.
- Record collection date, time and site and label bottles according to your facility’s recommendations.
- Transport inoculated bottles as quickly as possible to the laboratory for testing in the BACT/ALERT® blood culture system.‡

**STEP 6 | OTHER BLOOD TESTS**
- Collect the aerobic bottle first.
- Place adapter cap over bottle top.
- Press straight down to pierce septum.
- Hold the bottle upright below the venipuncture site.†
- Collect 10 mL of blood per adult bottle or up to 4 mL per pediatric bottle.
- Ensure the bottle is correctly filled to the Fill-to Mark or target fill level, as shown.
- Repeat for the anaerobic bottle.

**STEP 7 | FINISH THE PROCEDURE**
- Attach the collection set to the adapter cap.*
- To prevent contamination, do not re-palpate.
- Insert the needle into the prepared vein.
- Collect the aerobic bottle first.
- Place adapter cap over bottle top.
- Press straight down to pierce septum.
- Hold the bottle upright below the venipuncture site.†
- Collect 10 mL of blood per adult bottle or up to 4 mL per pediatric bottle.
- Ensure the bottle is correctly filled to the Fill-to Mark or target fill level, as shown.
- Repeat for the anaerobic bottle.

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* The use of blood collection sets without adapter caps is not recommended.
† Avoid holding the blood culture bottle in a horizontal or upside down position or drawing blood with a needle through the septum; this practice is discouraged due to fill level and media reflux risk.
‡ Inoculated bottles should be transported to the laboratory for testing as quickly as possible, preferably within 2 hours per CLSI guidelines and procedures for Blood Cultures: Approved Guidelines, CLSI document M47-A4. Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute (CLSI); Wayne, PA (2015). If delays are expected, it is important to refer to the manufacturer’s instructions for use for guidance.
Wherever possible, replace conventional needles and syringes with winged blood collection sets, which are safer.1,2

**RECOMMENDATIONS FOR BLOOD CULTURE COLLECTION USING NEEDLE AND SYRINGE***

**STEP 1  CHECK PATIENT ID AND PREPARE MATERIALS**
- Confirm the patient’s identity.
- Prepare the collection kit.
- Do not inoculate bottles past their expiration date.
- Do not use bottles showing signs of damage, deterioration, or contamination.
- Identify the fill-to mark or mark the target fill level on the label.

**STEP 2  PREPARE BOTTLES FOR INOCULATION**
- Wash hands or use an alcohol hand rub.
- Remove the plastic “flip-cap”.
- Disinfect the bottle septum and allow to dry.

**STEP 3  PREPARE VENIPUNCTURE SITE**
- Apply a disposable tourniquet.
- Palpate to find a vein.
- Apply clean examination gloves.
- Disinfect the skin.
- Allow the site to air dry.

**STEP 4  VENIPUNCTURE**
- Attach the needle to a syringe.
- To prevent contamination, do not re-palpate.
- Insert the needle into the prepared vein.
- Collect the sample.

**STEP 5  BOTTLE INOCULATION**
- Attach a transfer safety device.
- Inoculate the anaerobic bottle first.
- Hold the bottle upright.
- Add 10 mL of blood per adult bottle or up to 4 mL per pediatric bottle.
- Repeat for the aerobic bottle.
- Hold the bottle upright.
- Add 10 mL of blood per adult bottle and 4 mL per pediatric bottle.
- Ensure the bottle is correctly filled to the fill-to mark or target fill level, as shown.

**STEP 6  OTHER BLOOD TESTS**
- If collecting blood for additional tests, always collect blood cultures first.

**STEP 7  FINISH THE PROCEDURE**
- Discard the needle and syringe into a sharps container and cover the puncture site.
- Remove gloves and wash hands.
- Record collection date, time and site and label bottles according to your facility’s recommendations.
- Transport inoculated bottles as quickly as possible to the laboratory for testing in the BACT/ALERT® blood culture system.²

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† Inoculated bottles should be transported to the laboratory for testing as quickly as possible, preferably within 2 hours per CLSI® (Principles and procedures for Blood Cultures; Approved Guideline, CLSI® document M47-A. Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute (CLSI®); Wayne, PA 2007). If delays are expected, it is important to refer to the manufacturer’s instructions for use for guidance.


These recommendations illustrate the best practices for blood culture collection based on the World Health Organization recommendations (WHO guidelines on safe blood: key messages, 2008. ISBN 978-92-4-159922-1). Best practices may vary between healthcare facilities; refer to guidelines applicable in your facility.

BioMérieux has made every effort to provide content that observes best practices for blood culture collection. However, the information on this poster is given as a guideline for reference purposes only and is not intended to be exhaustive, nor to be medical advice. Always consult a medical director, physician or other qualified health care provider regarding processes and/or protocols for diagnosis and treatment of any medical condition.