

Appendix 1 – Departmental Blood Culture Project Sampling Checklist

Blood Culture Sampling Checklist

- Clean hands, set up workspace
- Apply tourniquet, palpate vein, clean with e.g. Clinell® (blue) & allow to dry
- Remove caps and clean bottle tops with a Steret® (red) wipe
- Put on gloves (non sterile) - DO NOT REPALPATE THE VEIN

Fill culture bottles before filling any other types of bottle

Fill the green bottle then the red bottle with min 5mls, max 10mls

Keep bottles upright during filling

Method 1 (safest & least likely to be contaminated): Use a 12 inch Safety-Lok™ butterfly needle and the blue culture bottle adaptors to aseptically inoculate the bottles directly.

Method 2: Use a butterfly or straight needle to draw blood into a syringe then use same needle to inoculate the bottles.

LAST RESORT: Blood cultures should only be taken from a cannula which has been newly-inserted. It should be put in the CLINICAL DETAILS of the request form and the blood culture bottles should be filled before any other bottles.

Appendix 2 – Departmental Blood Culture Project Display

Last contamination

Days since last contaminant in
NW

blood cultures taken

Updated on:

Contaminants = greater harm, inefficiency & cost

BEWARE

- <15 or >65 years-old
- Poor peripheral access
- Uncooperative

These are the difficult patients so...

Set-up for Success and TAP BAD

- **T**ake your time
- **A**sk for help
- **P**repare your station and equipment
- **B**lue Clinnell wipes for skin and allow to dry
- **A**void re-palpating site
- **D**ocument any difficulties