

Blood Culture Guidelines



When

Temp \geq
38°C

Or

Signs of sepsis:
↑HR, ↓SBP,
Rigors

Or

Suspicion
of sepsis

What

Collect 2 blood culture sets (4 bottles):
10mls of blood per bottle
Take one set at a time
(Paediatric volumes will be different)

Where

Take blood from:

Preferred:

2 separate peripheral sites or NEW CV line

Difficult access:

1 peripheral line and 1 existing line

No peripheral access

2 samples from any existing line, only to be used
in extreme circumstances – least preferred

The two blood sets should be taken within 48hrs of each

How

- Perform hand hygiene
- After removing blood culture bottle lids, swab with alcohol, allow 20 seconds to dry
- Disinfect skin, allow 60 seconds to dry
- Take cultures before taking other blood samples (no discard required)
- Fill Aerobic bottle first, then Anaerobic; repeat for second set.
- 10 ml blood per bottle (adults)
- Clearly label each culture bottle and form with site of origin
- Repeat at next site

