



## BLOOD CULTURE SPECIMEN COLLECTION

### Collection

#### 1. SITE SELECTION

- a. Select a different body site for each culture drawn.
- b. Avoid drawing blood through indwelling intravascular catheters unless blood can not be obtained by venipuncture. Blood collected from intravascular catheters may be contaminated.

#### 2. SITE PREPARATION

- a. Cleanse the selected site with a 70% isopropyl alcohol pad. Cleanse selected site with Chlorascrub Swab and allow to dry before continuing with venipuncture.

#### 3. DISINFECTING BLOOD CULTURE VIALS

- a. Remove the flip-off cap from the vial.
- b. Wipe the top of the blood culture vial with 70% isopropyl alcohol pad only and leave the pad on top of the bottle until the blood is ready to be injected.
- c. **Do not disinfect tops of vials.**

#### 4. VENIPUNCTURE

- a. Avoid touching the site of venipuncture after alcohol/ chlorascrub swab treatment. If it is necessary to touch the site after it has been cleaned, wipe your fingers with chlorascrub swab.
- b. Collection:  
Butterfly with adapter:
  - Monitor volume collection using 5ml graduation marks on vial label.
  - **DO NOT OVERFILL**
  - Needle with syringe:
    - 20ml syringe for adults
    - 3 or 5ml syringe for children
- c. Dispense blood as shown in chart below:

	Amount per Venipuncture	Amount in BACTEC Plus Aerobic Vial	Amount in BACTEC Plus Anaerobic Vial	Amount in BACTEC PEDS Plus/f
Adult:	16-20 mL	Split equally between aerobic and anaerobic vials		
	13-16 mL	8 mL	5-8 mL	
	10-12 mL	5-7 mL	5 mL	
	5-9 mL	entire volume drawn	0 mL	
	<5 mL (any age pt)	0 mL	0 mL	entire volume drawn
Child:	1-5 mL blood	0 mL	0 mL	entire volume drawn

- c. Invert bottles gently 8 – 10 times to thoroughly mix blood.
- d. The inoculated *BACTEC* vials should be transported as quickly as possible to the laboratory.
- e. Vials should ALWAYS be left in the laboratory at room temperature for lab personnel to process.

#### SPECIMEN LABELING

- a. **DO NOT WRITE ON OR PLACE ANY LABELS OVER THE BACTEC VIAL BARCODE.**
- b. Each vial must be labeled with the appropriate patient information:
  - Patient's name and D.O.B.
  - Date and time of collection
  - Collector's initials
  - Site of venipunctureComputer generated labels are preferred; if unavailable, use a handwritten label.