



East Suffolk and North Essex

NHS Foundation Trust

Blood Culture Technique using the Monovette System

1. Ensure the Electronic Order Comms or manual request form has been completed.
2. Confirm patient identity and gain consent.
3. Wash hands and/or use alcohol hand rub. Wear clean disposable gloves.
4. Assemble equipment: Monovette safety-needle or Safety Multifly needle, Blood Culture bottles, (use the 2 bottle set for adults and the single paediatric bottle for paediatrics). Blood Culture Adaptor, any Monovette tubes needed for other blood sampling, blood culture bottle cleansing Sani-Cloth CHG 2% wipe and skin cleansing Chloraprep Frepp sponge.
5. Select appropriate site and apply tourniquet, identify vein to be used. Release tourniquet and prepare skin site with Chloraprep Frepp sponge for 30 seconds. **Allow to air dry.**
6. Remove the covers from the tops of the Blood Culture bottles and wipe the septum with the Sani-Cloth CHG 2% wipe. **Allow to air dry.**
7. Attach the needle to the blood culture adaptor.
8. Re-tighten tourniquet (not to be left on for more than 60 seconds) and without touching the site, puncture the vein with the needle bevel facing upwards.
9. Keeping the bottle below the puncture wound, insert the Aerobic (Grey) bottle into the adaptor, followed by the Anaerobic (Purple top) bottle and allow 8-10ml of blood to flow into each bottle. For the Paediatric (Pink top) bottle allow 1-3ml of blood. Loosen tourniquet when a good blood flow is established.
10. If further blood sampling is required, remove the blood culture adaptor and attach Monovettes to the needle and continue according to standard procedure.
11. Fully release tourniquet, withdraw needle and immediately engage the safety device. Dispose of needle and adaptor into sharps bin. Remove tourniquet at end of procedure.
12. Before leaving patients side, label the Blood Culture bottles, and all other monovettes with the patients name, date of birth, hospital number, NHS number, ward and date/time of collection. Printed labels may be used, except for Pre-Transfusion testing. Do not place labels over blood culture barcode labels as these are required by the laboratory.
13. Place Blood Cultures into bag and seal, place request form into bag sleeve.
14. Arrange immediate transport to laboratory, either by porter or pneumatic air tube – send to Microbiology -
15. Blood Cultures are continuously monitored for at least 5 days. Interim negative reports are available after 48 hours for adults and 36 hours for paediatrics.
16. Clinically significant findings are telephoned on the day of detection.