



# 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 with full, relevant clinical details.
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 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 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. It is essential that these bottles contain correct volumes of blood for accurate clinical results.
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 any other monovettes with: Name, DOB, Hospital no, NHS no, ward and date/time of collection. Printed labels may be used except for Pre-Transfusion testing. Any labels used must not cover the barcode on the blood culture bottle as these are required by the laboratory. ICE labels with a barcode must be placed vertically.
13. Place Blood Cultures into bag and seal, place request form into bag sleeve.
14. Arrange immediate transport to laboratory, either by porter, or the pneumatic air tube.
15. Blood cultures are continuously monitored for at least 5 days.
16. Clinically significant findings are telephoned on the day of detection.