

Blood Cultures From Peripheral Site

PURPOSE

To draw blood from a peripheral venous site for the purpose of obtaining diagnostic tests.

POLICY

1. RNs (LPN where allowed by state LPN Practice Act) may perform a venipuncture in the alternative care setting with a physician's order.
2. RN shall wear protective gloves for this procedure and consideration shall be given to wearing goggles.
3. This procedure shall be done using aseptic technique.
4. Preferred sites for blood draws are the antecubital veins. When drawing culture from a PICC, subclavian, or tunneled catheter, refer to Blood Draw – Central Line Policy.
5. When using a tourniquet or blood pressure cuff to distend the vein, the radial pulse should be palpable.
6. Blood cultures should be collected at the earliest sign of suspected septicemia.
7. Two culture bottles (1 aerobic and 1 anaerobic) shall be filled for each blood culture. Check with the lab regarding “venting” of the aerobic bottle.
8. Check with the physician regarding time span if more than one set of blood cultures is ordered.

EQUIPMENT

Liquid (regular or antimicrobial) soap and sanitizing gel

1 pair of gloves

Tourniquet or blood pressure cuff

Sterile gauze 2x2

1-2 povidone-iodine swabs or other appropriate disinfectant

1-2 alcohol swabs

1-inch tape or Band-Aid®

1-2 10ml sterile syringes

1 set of blood culture bottles (aerobic and anaerobic)

2 sterile 20-gauge needles

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Sharps container

OPTIONAL: Goggles

PROCEDURE

1. Obtain physician order for lab draw. Explain procedure to patient.
2. Wash hands thoroughly with soap and water and dry with clean paper towel.
3. Arrange supplies on a clean surface.
4. Apply the tourniquet or blood pressure cuff and select the venipuncture site. Once the site is located, remove the tourniquet.
5. Using firm pressure and friction, scrub the venipuncture site to a diameter of at least 3 inches following manufacturer's recommendations for the skin disinfectant used. Let dry completely (1-2 minutes). If using povidone-iodine, do not remove it from the skin.
6. Cleanse the diaphragm tops of the culture bottles with **alcohol only** (povidone-iodine may interfere with the automatic processing of some culture collection systems). **Let dry.**
7. Put on gloves and goggles. Reapply tourniquet or blood pressure cuff.
8. Perform the venipuncture, drawing 10-20ml of blood from adult or 2-6ml from a child.
9. Change the needle on the syringe used to draw the blood.
10. **First inject the anaerobic bottle with 5-10ml of blood to prevent introduction of air into the bottle. Inject the remaining blood into the aerobic bottle.**
11. Label the culture bottles and transport to the lab per specific laboratory requirements and CarePro Infection/Exposure Prevention protocol.
12. Document the procedure in the patient's medical record. For pediatric patients the amount of blood obtained should be documented in the medical record. See the Pediatric Protocol for information on volume limitations.
15. Dispose of all hazardous materials and waste in the appropriate containers according to state and federal regulations.

RESPONSIBILITY

CarePro Health Services
Phone 800-755-6997
Infusion Nursing

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The Clinical Specialist has the responsibility for approval of, compliance with, and revisions to this policy.

MODIFICATION/REVISION

This policy is subject to modification or revision in part or its entirety to reflect changes in conditions subsequent to the effective date of this policy.

REFERENCES

1. Infusion Nursing Standards of Practice – Revised 2016; Journal of Infusion Nursing, Supplement to January/February 2016, Volume 39, Number 1S.
2. Infusion Nursing: An Evidence-Based Approach, Third Edition edited by Mary Alexander, Ann Corrigan, Lisa Gorski, Judy Hankins, and Roxanne Perucca.
3. INS (Infusion Nurses Society) Policies and Procedures for Infusion Nursing, 3rd Edition.