

University of Colorado Hospital – Clinical Laboratory
Blood Culture Collection



1

Gather equipment prior to starting procedure. Positively identify the patient according to policy and perform hand hygiene in between patients.



2

Don gloves. Swab the tops of the bottles and green top tube with alcohol. Locate venipuncture site before next step.



3

Scrub proposed site of venipuncture with Chloraprep® using frictional back and forth motion. Allow to air dry naturally 30 seconds before venipuncture. Do not blot, wipe away, or blow on site.

Do not re-palpate chosen site after cleansing.



4

Perform venipuncture. Optimum volume of blood for each bottle is 10 ml, and 1-2 ml for green top tube. If less than 16 ml of blood is obtained, place 1 ml in the green top tube, if applicable**. Place 8-10 ml in the aerobic bottle. Place remainder, if any, in the anaerobic bottle.



5

Place correct labels, which include the patient's full name and medical record number, on bottles and green top tube. If labels are not available, legibly handwrite the information on the bottles. Write the draw site, date, time, and your initials on each of the labels.

DO NOT COVER THE BAR CODE LABELS ON THE BOTTLES.



6

Deliver the set of two labeled blood culture bottles and green top tube in a plastic bag to the Clinical Laboratory. If using the pneumatic tube system, place green top in separate plastic bag toward the "necks" of the bottles.

DO NOT TUBE MORE THAN ONE BLOOD CULTURE SET PER CARRIER. USE SPECIALLY PADDED CARRIERS FOR TRANSPORT.

** Green top tubes are used for quantitative cultures only if received from two separate lines (two lumens of the same line don't count) or a line draw paired with a peripheral draw.