



CHUGHTAIS LAHORE LAB (CLL)

MIC/QWI/L3/019	Quality work Instructions for Blood collection technique	Issue on	10-07-2015	Revision	
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Aseptic blood collection and dispensing technique

Blood for culture must be collected and dispensed with great care to avoid contaminating the specimen and culture medium.

1. Using a pressure cuff, locate a suitable vein in the arm. Deflate the cuff while disinfecting the venepuncture site.
2. Wearing gloves, thoroughly disinfect the venepuncture site as follows:
 - Using 70% ethanol, cleanse an area about 50 mm in diameter. Allow to air-dry.
 - Using 2% tincture of iodine and a circular action, swab the area beginning at the point where the needle will enter the vein. Allow the iodine to dry on the skin for at least 1 minute.
3. Lift back the tape or remove the protective cover from the top of the culture bottle(s). Wipe the top of the bottle using an ethanol-ether swab.
4. Using a sterile syringe and needle, withdraw about 20 ml of blood from an adult* or about 3 ml from a young child.

**Note:* When an anaerobic culture is not indicated, collect 10 –15 ml of blood.

5. Insert the needle through the rubber liner of the bottle cap and dispense 8-10 ml of blood into the aerobic blood bottle containing 30 ml of broth. When also culturing for anaerobes, dispense about 8-10 ml of blood into the thioglycollate culture medium containing 25 ml of broth and 1-3 ml of blood into blood culture bottle containing 40ml of broth.
6. Using a fresh ethanol-ether swab, wipe the top of each culture bottle and replace the tape or protective cover(s). Without delay, mix the blood with the broth.

Important: The blood must not be allowed to clot in the culture media because any bacteria will become trapped in the clot.

7. Clearly label each bottle with the name and number of the patient, and the date and time of collection.

Note: Do not write or put any type of label on the bar code of Bactec bottle.

8. As soon as possible, incubate the inoculated media. Protect the cultures from direct sunlight until they are incubated.

Head of the Department

MR Technical

Lab Manger