

How to collect blood culture specimen

Aseptic Technique

- Perform hand hygiene and put gloves on
- Clean skin with alcohol 70% (lets it dry, 1min)
- Then clean with povidone iodine 10% (let it dry, 2mins)
- Wipe top of blood culture bottle with povidone iodine 10% (let it dry)
- Don't touch cleaned area except with sterile needle
- Don't take blood through existing IV cannula

Blood Volume

- Adult: 2 bottles – at least 5ml each, from two separate sites
- Children: 1 bottle – at least 1ml

Timing

- Ideally before commencing antibiotic

Request form

- include clinical syndrome, co-morbidities, risk factors

Transportation

- Send to laboratory immediately after collection
- Do not refrigerate

