

## BLOOD CULTURE COLLECTION

### PRINCIPLE:

To obtain blood cultures from patient without contamination.

### PROCEDURE:

A. Preparation of phlebotomy site: all cleansing is done with a circular motion, starting in center and working out.

1. Scrub the site with 70% isopropyl alcohol scrub (Frepp sponge) for at least 30 seconds and allow to dry.
2. Cleanse the area using tincture of Iodine (Sepp) ampule and allow to dry.
3. If area is to be palpated using fingers, the gloves must also be cleaned using iodine.

B. Drawing the cultures.

1. Cleanse the tube tops using alcohol.
2. Using a vacutainer assembly draw two yellow top (SPS) tubes for each culture. If both a blood culture and a blood culture for fungus are ordered, draw three yellow top tubes. Special care should be exercised to avoid contaminating the cultures.
3. Label the tubes with all required specimen information including site and time of draw. These are very important as blood cultures can be ordered at specific times and from specific sites.

C. Patient care.

Using alcohol preps cleanse the area to remove any iodine traces and apply a pressure bandage.

D. Blood cultures ordered times 2 or 3 indicate 2 or 3 venipunctures are to be done.

### REFERENCE:

Cepti-Seal Blood Culture Prep Kit Inservice Trainer's Manual

Approved:

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