

# **Taking Blood Cultures**



- Always wash hands before taking blood cultures hand decontamination required even if wearing gloves
- If blood being drawn for other investigations, take blood culture first before other samples
- Only take blood cultures if the patient is for active treatment with antibiotics

#### Step 1

- Collect equipment from blood culture kit in a clean tray.
- Make sure all items to be used are within expiry date.



#### Step 2

- Clean appropriate vein site with ChloraPrep Frepp (2% Chlorhexdine Gluconate in 70% Isopropyl alcohol) applicator for 30 seconds.
- Leave to dry for 30 seconds.
- Do not re-palpate vein.

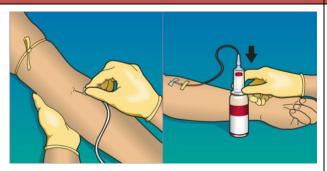


- Remove caps from blood culture bottles and clean bottle tops with a 2% Chlorhexidine in 70% alcohol wipe.
- Leave for 30 seconds to dry.



## Step 4

- Gain venous access with the winged blood collection set. You may secure device with surgical tape (micropore).
- Standing blood culture bottle upright insert into adapter cap to gain sample (8-10 ml).
- Fill blue/silver (aerobic) bottle first and then red/purple (anaerobic) bottle.



### Step 5

Step3

- Remove and dispose of sharps and clinical waste.
- Complete blood culture label and put into patient's notes.
- Label blood culture bottles and fully complete specimen form.
- Ensure the bar code on the blood culture bottle is not covered by the patient label.