

## **BLOOD CULTURE PROCEDURE**

Due to high morbidity and mortality attributed to sepsis, the prompt and accurate detection of bacteremia and fungemia is important for improving patient care and safety. The laboratory test used to detect the presence of bacteria or fungi in the blood is the blood culture.

### **1. Requirements:**

- a) Bottle system
- b) Blood culture or SPS
- c) Syringes and needle (sterile)

### **2. Procedure:**

- a) Remove seals and bottle caps and place caps right side up on a clean surface.
- b) Wipe the top of rubber stopper with Providone iodine and allow the stopper to dry while preparing the patients for venipuncture.
- c) Apply tourniquet to the patient's arm with the most prominent vein.
- d) Remove the prep and hold by the center handle in a horizontal position with foam surface down.
- e) Pinch the handle to break ampule. Do not continue to squeeze the handle.
- f) Apply foam surface to area to be cleansed. Depress foam against surface once or twice to saturate foam.
- g) Cleanse area thoroughly.
- h) Remove sepp with tip in a downward position and pinch the center of the sepp to crush ampule. Pump lightly until tip is saturated.
- i) Apply providone iodine to venipuncture site starting at the center and moving in concentric circles to periphery.
- j) Allow the providone iodine to dry 30-60 seconds.
- k) Without removing providone iodine proceed with collection of blood.
- l) If it is necessary to palpate the vein again below or above the point of entry.
- m) Carefully, using a sterile syringe withdraw the needle from the point of entry.
- n) Withdraw 10 mL of blood.
- o) Release the tourniquet and withdraw the needle. Remove providone iodine from collection site using sterile pad (70% Isopropyl alcohol).
- p) Before injecting blood change and put another sterile needle.
- q) Inject 5 ml of blood into each of the 2 bottles.
- r) Clean the top of the rubber with an alcohol pad, replace caps.
- s) Transport culture bottles immediately to the Microbiology laboratory for processing/incubation.

**NOTE:** *If a delay in transport or processing is anticipated, do not refrigerate the culture bottles, leave them at room temperature.*