VANDERBILT MEDICAL LABORATORIES

Pediatric Blood Culture Collection Guidelines

Collect based on the table to optimize the detection of bacteria.

Recommended Blood Volume per Bottle by Patient Weight			
	Aerobic Cultures		Anaerobic Cultures
Body Weight	Yellow Top Bottle	Green Top Bottle	Orange Top Bottle
< 5 kg	1 mL		
5-13 kg	4 mL		4 mL
14-25 kg		5 mL	5 mL
26-39k		8 mL	8 mL
> 40 kg		10 mL	10 mL

^{**}Obtain aerobic and anaerobic blood cultures on <u>initial</u> blood culture collection for SCT patients with fever and neutropenia, neutropenic patients with GI pathology, short bowel syndrome patients, and other patients with concern for disseminated anaerobic infection. Thereafter, if repeat cultures are needed, obtain ONLY aerobic blood culture.

Key Points:

Yellow Top Bottles for Children <14 kg

Green Top Bottles for Children > 14



Labeling Instructions

Place patient label in the designated area on the bottle. **Do not cover bottle barcode**



Only one lab-ready label will print with a pediatric blood culture order. If an additional bottle is used, please use a generic patient label. It is not necessary to place an additional order.

Questions? Call Lab Customer Service at 615-875-5227 (5-LABS)

