


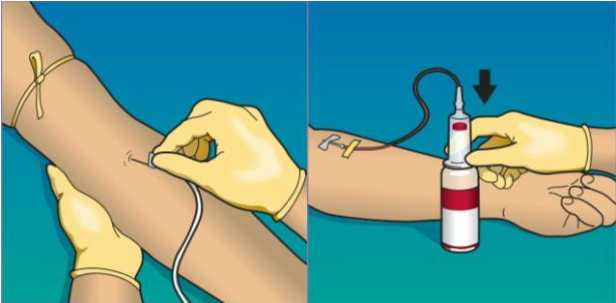


Taking Blood Cultures

- 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	Step 2	Step 3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collect equipment from blood culture kit in a clean tray. • Make sure all items to be used are within expiry date. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clean appropriate vein site with ChloraPrep Frepp (2% Chlorhexidine Gluconate in 70% Isopropyl alcohol) applicator for 30 seconds. • Leave to dry for 30 seconds. • Do not re-palpate vein. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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		Step 5
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.