Collecting Blood Cultures

TREK blood culture bottles may be obtained from DCPAH. Please call 517-353-1683 and ask to speak to the Bacteriology Lab.

**Step 1:** Obtain one VersaTREK REDOX 1 EZ Draw 40 ml w/stir bar (Purple/Aerobic) and one VersaTREK REDOX 2 EZ Draw 40 ml (Red/Anaerobic) from the Bacteriology/Mycology section at DCPAH.

**Step 2:** Label the bottles with patient identifiers (name, medical record number, date and time drawn) – **DO NOT BLOCK THE BAR CODE ON THE BOTTLE.**

**Step 3:** Prepare the venipuncture site for blood cultures, using betadine then alcohol.

**Step 4:** Prepare the blood culture bottles by disinfecting the visible part of the rubber stopper with 70% isopropyl or ethyl alcohol and allow it to dry. Place it in a clean area.

**Step 5:** Using a needle and syringe draw a total of 10 mL of patient’s blood (maximum of 5 mL each for one aerobic and one anaerobic bottle). See the Low Volume Distribution Scheme (Step 8) if you cannot obtain 10 mL of blood.

**Step 6:** Dispose of the needle in an appropriate sharps container and attach a sterile needle to the syringe.

**Step 7:** Transfer the blood obtained from the patient immediately into the prepared bottles under aseptic conditions (half of the amount obtained into each bottle), inserting the needle at a right angle in the center of the rubber septum.

HELPFUL HINT: always inoculate the REDOX 1 (Purple/Aerobic) bottle first.

**Step 8:** Low Volume Distribution Scheme

If you cannot obtain 10 mL of blood, divide the blood as follows:

- >1 mL: divide equally between both the REDOX 1 (Purple/Aerobic) and REDOX 2 (Red/Anaerobic) bottles
- <1 mL but >0.5 mL: place 0.5 mL in REDOX 1 (Purple/Aerobic) bottle and the remainder in the REDOX 2 (Red/Anaerobic) bottle.
- <0.5 mL: put the entire specimen in the REDOX 1 (Purple/Aerobic) bottle.

**Step 9:** Mix contents of each inoculated bottle 4 or 5 times by gentle inversion so the blood is dispersed evenly throughout the medium.

**Step 10:** Leave the blood culture bottles **AT ROOM TEMP** and mail to the laboratory overnight with the appropriate paperwork.

******NEVER REFRIGERATE OR INCUBATE******