

Laboratory Bulletin

Important News from DCL Medical Laboratories



August 7, 2009

DCL to perform Blood Cultures in-house

DCL Medical Laboratories will now perform Blood Culture testing in-house. This Laboratory Bulletin contains important information regarding specimen collection for this test. If you have any questions, please contact DCL Client Services at (314) 874-1334 or toll free at (866) 874-1334.

Culture Blood, Routine

In many situations, blood cultures are the only immediate source of the etiological agent in severe or life-threatening infections and the diagnosis depends on its isolation. In other cases, blood cultures indicate the severity and extent of the dissemination of an infection. Therefore, in the collection and handling of these specimens, good technique, well-selected procedures, and avoidance of contamination are especially important for adequate patient care.

A positive blood culture implies either bacteremia, the presence of bacteria in blood as transient invaders not associated with systemic symptoms, or septicemia, the invasion and multiplication in the blood stream of pathogenic organisms with the production of toxic symptoms.



Lavender-top Lytic Culture Media Bottle



Blue-top Aerobic Culture Media Bottle

Culture Blood, Routine	
C BLOOD HV	DCL #: 4029
Collection Container:	Adult: 2 - Two-bottle culture media sets (Set contains Blue-top Aerobic and Lavender-top Lytic) Pediatric: 2 Lavender-top Lytic culture media bottles
Storage/Stability:	1 day Room Temperature
Turnaround Time:	2 - 3 days if positive Cultures will be held for 5 days before being reported as negative.
Amount of Specimen:	Adult: 8 - 10 mL each bottle Note: 2 sets of 2 bottles should be drawn from separate venipuncture sites. Allow 30 minutes between sets. Pediatric: .5 - 5 mL each bottle Note: 2 bottles should be drawn from separate venipuncture sites. Allow 30 minutes between bottles.
Centrifuge required?:	No
Fasting required?:	No
Reference Range:	Negative
Method:	Bactec® Continuous Monitoring System
Test Includes:	Culture, Organism ID if indicated and Susceptibility if indicated by Organism ID
Special Instructions:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Document all other current therapy on the requisition• Collect two sets of culture bottles from two separate venipuncture sites• Wait at least 30 minutes before collecting the second set of culture bottles• Cleanse the skin over the site of the venipuncture with 70% alcohol and tincture of iodine. Allow iodine to dry for 1 minute before venipuncture.• Do Not palpate site after prep.• Remove center plastic disk of caps of culture bottles.• Disinfect the rubber diaphragm of culture bottles with 70% alcohol. Do NOT use tincture of iodine.• Mix gently after inoculation.
Clinical Utility:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Identify bacteremia or septicemia
CPT: 87040	Medicare Reimbursement: \$15.07

* Per Jan. 2009 Clinical Diagnostic Laboratory Fee Schedule for Indiana.