

Blood Culture Information Sheet

Overview

MDL Test Name

Blood Culture

MDL Test Code

BLD_CULT

Ask at Order Questions

N/A

Specimen Source

Blood (specify collection site)

Specimen Requirements

Container/Tube

- Adults: Recommend one FA Plus and one FN Plus bottle per order*
- Pediatric: Recommend one PF Plus bottle per order

Recommended Total Volume and Numbers of Blood Cultures**				
Weight in kg (lb)	# of Orders/# of sites	Culture Order set 1: Site 1 Volume/Bottle	Culture Order set 2: Site 2 Volume/Bottle	Total Blood Volume Drawn
≤ 1 (2.2lbs)	1 order / 1 site	0.5-2mL / one PF Plus	-	0.5-2mL
1.1-2 (2.4-5lbs)	2 orders / 2 sites	0.5-2mL / PF Plus	0.5-2mL / PF Plus	1-4mL
2.1-12.7 (5-28lbs)	2 orders / 2 sites	4mL / one PF Plus	2 mL / one PF Plus	6mL
12.8-36.3 (28-80lbs)	2 orders / 2 sites	5mL / one FA Plus	5mL / one FA Plus	10mL
>36.3 (80lbs) [Treat as Adult]	2 orders / 2 sites	20mL / 10mL in each FA Plus & FN Plus	20mL / 10mL in each FA Plus & FN Plus	40mL

*If unable to collect the full volume required for both FA Plus and FN Plus bottles, we will accept only an FA Plus bottle or only a PF Plus bottle if necessary.

Specimen Volume (minimum)

- FA Plus and FN Plus Bottles: minimum 4mL; maximum 10 mL
- PF Plus Bottles: minimum 0.5 mL; maximum 4mL

Sample Stability Time

- 24 hours
- **Please notify MDL if a STAT courier is needed to meet this time.**

Transport/Storage Conditions

- Ambient (20 – 25°C); maintain at room temperature
- **DO NOT REFRIGERATE**

Patient Preparation / Collection Instructions

Refer to Blood Culture Collection Instructions

Performance**Days Performed**

Daily; Monday – Sunday

Report Available (TAT) – (Once received at MDL)

5 – 7 days

Specimen Retention Time

7 days

Method Description

Culture using automated continuous monitoring system

Reference Values

No growth

Cautions

- Do not use expired bottles
- The media used may not support the growth of some organisms. There are a number of fastidious microorganisms that infect the blood that cannot be grown in routine cultures of blood. If looking for a specific organism, please reach out to MDL prior to ordering to determine if we can support your request.

- A negative culture result does not necessarily rule out bacteremia; false-negative results occur when pathogens fail to grow.
- False-positive results can occur when contaminants from the collection process grow. Consideration of the full clinical picture and results of multiple blood culture sets should be used when determining if bacteremia is present.
- This order request is for blood cultures incubated within MDL's continuous monitoring system. If you are a clinical site that incubates their own bottles and is sending only a previously incubated, positive bottle then please reference order: Blood Culture (POSITIVE) - Identification and Susceptibility (POSBLD_CULT).

References**

1. Clinical Microbiology Procedures Handbook. 4th Ed. ASM. ASM Press. Washington DC, 2016.