

HomeMed

Guidelines for Obtaining Laboratory Samples

BLOOD and URINE CULTURES

Test	Container	Volume/material	Specimen Prep & Storage
Blood Culture, Bacteria & Yeast	Adult or Pediatric Blood Culture Set (BacT/Alert bottles)	10mL, whole blood, to each bottle (minimum volume = 1mL per year of age for pediatric pts) Draw one set from catheter line and one set from peripheral site Clean site with 70% alcohol and then iodoform-type solution (allowing to dry) prior to sampling	Mix well Store at room temperature Label each bottle with pt name, registration number, anatomic site of blood draw Note on requisition whether testing for sensitivities is required Deliver to lab within 18 hours
Blood Culture, Catheter Tip	Sterile container	Catheter Tip Use sterile scissors to cut off 2-3 inches of catheter tip and place in sterile container.	Refrigerate Note on requisition whether testing for sensitivities is required Deliver to lab within 12 hours
Urine, Clean Catch, Aerobic Culture	Sterile tube or container	10 ml urine (2ml minimum) Catch midstream, or from bagged specimen	Refrigerate Mark specimen as "bagged urine" if obtained from collection bag Note on requisition whether testing for sensitivities is required Deliver to lab within 24 hours