

To: UCMC and BSD Communities

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Date: Monday, July 29, 2024

Subject: BD BACTEC Blood Culture Bottle National Shortage:

Adult + Pediatric Bottles

Effective Date: 7/29/2024

Summary: Due to the nationwide BD BACTEC Blood Culture Bottle shortage, the UCM Lab Stewardship + MIDICASP Committees have developed guidance to facilitate optimized blood culture ordering within an AgileMD pathway.

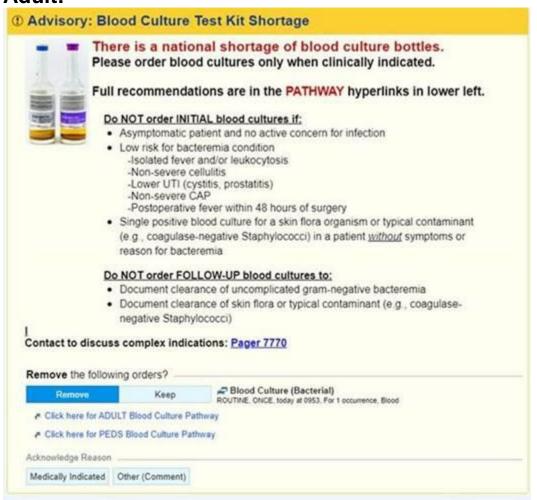
A BPA has also been created to notify providers of the shortage and direct providers to the AgileMD pathway to place blood culture orders when indicated—the AgileMD ordering pathway will go live July 31, 2024.

Since the ultimate duration of the nationwide shortage is uncertain, we need to work together to be good stewards of this limited resource.

As you know, blood cultures are an essential diagnostic tool and this shortage presents a substantial opportunity to improve appropriate utilization including:

- Only obtaining cultures when clinically indicated and ordered
- Maximizing volume of blood cultures inoculated in bottles
 - Adult blood culture samples require 8-10mL
- Minimizing contamination by thorough skin preparation
 - Properly cleansing the patient's skin and the top of the blood culture bottle before collection is important for preventing blood culture contaminants
- Avoidance of drawing off central lines
- Always ordering/drawing 2-sets of blood cultures
- Always performing a new stick for each set of blood cultures

Adult:



Pediatric:

