



AT THE FOREFRONT

UChicago
Medicine

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
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Adult:

① Advisory: Blood Culture Test Kit Shortage



There is a national shortage of blood culture bottles. Please order blood cultures only when clinically indicated.

Full recommendations are in the **PATHWAY** hyperlinks in lower left.

Do NOT order INITIAL blood cultures if:

- Asymptomatic patient and no active concern for infection
- Low risk for bacteremia condition
 - Isolated fever and/or leukocytosis
 - Non-severe cellulitis
 - Lower UTI (cystitis, prostatitis)
 - Non-severe CAP
 - Postoperative fever within 48 hours of surgery
- Single positive blood culture for a skin flora organism or typical contaminant (e.g., coagulase-negative Staphylococci) in a patient *without* symptoms or reason for bacteremia

Do NOT order FOLLOW-UP blood cultures to:

- Document clearance of uncomplicated gram-negative bacteremia
- Document clearance of skin flora or typical contaminant (e.g., coagulase-negative Staphylococci)

Contact to discuss complex indications: [Pager 7770](#)

Remove the following orders? _____

Remove

Keep

Blood Culture (Bacterial)
ROUTINE, ONCE, today at 0953, For 1 occurrence, Blood

[Click here for ADULT Blood Culture Pathway](#)

[Click here for PEDS Blood Culture Pathway](#)

Acknowledge Reason _____

Medically Indicated

Other (Comment)

Pediatric:

① Advisory: Blood Culture Test Kit Shortage



There is a national shortage of blood culture bottles. Please order blood cultures only when clinically indicated.

Full recommendations are in the **PATHWAY** hyperlinks in lower left.

INITIAL Blood Culture Collection is NOT recommended for:

- Isolated fever and/or leukocytosis
- Non-severe skin and soft tissue infection or pneumonia
- Cystitis outside of the neonatal period
- Non-severe pneumonia (i.e. clinically stable, without signs of sepsis)
- Postoperative fever within 48hrs of procedure, if the patient is otherwise clinically stable

REPEAT Blood Culture Collection is NOT recommended for:

- A single positive blood culture with a likely contaminant (i.e. CONS) without symptoms consistent with that finding or clear source of infection
- Clinically stable patients with negative blood cultures x2 and with persistent fever UNLESS there is a change in clinical status

Contact the PEDS ID Fellow to discuss complex indications: [Pager 4784](#)

Remove the following orders? _____

Remove

Keep

Blood Culture (Bacterial)
ROUTINE, ONCE, today at 0949, For 1 occurrence, Blood

[Click here for ADULT Blood Culture Pathway](#)

[Click here for PEDS Blood Culture Pathway](#)

Acknowledge Reason _____

Medically Indicated

Other (Comment)