

**Blood Cultures – What to do if maximum amount is not obtained**

**Always try to obtain the maximum amount (10 mL in each bottle).** The more specimen obtained, the better chance for isolating the organism which results in faster recovery for the patient.

Note: If 3 mLs or less is obtained on an adult patient, a peds bottle BACTEC Peds Plus (PINK) should be used.

If less than the optimal amount (10cc in each bottle) is obtained, the distribution of blood collected should be as follows:

**BACTEC BOTTLES**

<b>Amount Obtained Venipuncture</b>	<b>BACTEC Plus Aerobic/F (blue)</b>	<b>BACTEC Lytic/10 Anaerobic/F (purple)</b>	<b>BACTEC Peds Plus/F (PINK)</b>
Volume	10	10	0.5-3 mLs
16-20 mL	Split equally between aerobic and anerobic bottles.		
13-16 mL	8mL	5-8mL	
10-12 mL	5-7 mL	5 mL	
5-9 mL	Entire blood amount	0 mL	

**VERY IMPORTANT:**

The amount that was collected **MUST** be written on the label along with the site that was drawn, e.g. LA9 would mean that 9 cc was placed in this bottle from the left arm.

The amount goes on the bottle only – Lab will enter the site into specimen comments when receiving blood cultures. Also, if only 4 – 8cc obtained from an adult, you **MUST** put Aerobic Bottle Only in specimen comments.

**Abbreviations for locations:** LA – left arm      LF – left foot  
RA – right arm      RF – right foot  
LH – left hand      RH – right hand  
color of port (blue port, red port, etc)

**Note: Blood culture prep is a critical part of the procedure**

Adults: 30 second friction scrub with chloraprep, allow to dry completely  
Infants < 2 months of age 30 second scrub with alcohol followed by a circular scrub with a second alcohol pad from the inside out, allow to dry completely