

## Bundle for preventing contamination when taking a sample for blood culture

**Statement:** Taking a patient's blood for 'culture' is a vital test in healthcare to establish whether a patient has bacteraemia and to guide appropriate therapy. It is vital that the test is as accurate as possible. Contamination of the blood sample can occur during the process from; the hands of the healthcare workers, the patient's skin, the environment or the equipment used including the sample bottle itself.

**Objective:** To optimise blood culture procedure to minimise the risk of contamination.  
To be able to demonstrate quality blood culture procedures in our ward.

It should be decided locally how to implement this checklist. Consideration should be given to SPSP PDSA testing in addition to when it is completed, how often it is completed, who completes it and how the data are collected and outcomes fed back.

Ward:	DATE:	Staff member			
Criteria for taking a blood culture			Patient 1		Example
1. Blood culture bottle tops have been decontaminated by rubbing with an antiseptic containing 70% isopropyl alcohol and left to dry	Yes	No	Yes	No	No
2. Hand hygiene has been performed immediately before the process of taking a blood culture sample	Yes	No	Yes	No	No
3. Skin site has been cleansed with a single-use antiseptic containing 70% isopropyl alcohol and left to dry	Yes	No	Yes	No	No
4. Aseptic technique is maintained including the use of gloves and the critical parts were not touched, including the skin, following disinfection	Yes	No	Yes	No	No
5. The blood culture bottle is inoculated first (if taking blood for other samples)	Yes	No	Yes	No	No

Summary Table for taking a blood culture	
Percentage compliance = $\frac{\text{total number of criteria achieved}}{\text{total number of criteria}} \times 100$	Example: $\frac{4}{5} \times 100 = 80\%$