

INSERVICING POINTS FOR OBTAINING BLOOD CULTURES AND MANAGING SEVERE SEPSIS

1. Review the decision tree for blood cultures (at each bedside).
 - a. **CAB (Catheter Associated Bactermia) assesment is only requested** if the patient has a previously established intravascular line. CAB is diagnosed if a blood culture drawn from a preexisting line becomes positive > 2 hours before a peripheral sample drawn at the same time, and both samples grow the same organism. CAB means that the blood stream infection is due to the indwelling line.
 - b. To order a CAB, draw peripheral and line cultures within 15 minutes of each other and request CAB under “comments”.
 - c. Positive blood cultures that are drawn from newly established lines are consistent with a bactermia that is not CAB. Do not request a CAB assesment unless the patient has at least one preexisting line (this could include a PICC, dialysis line, chemotherapy line, or any other central line), and the line is not being removed at the time of culture.
 - d. The lab WILL NOT perform a CAB assesment unless a peripheral blood culture is obtained along with the line culture. If the patient has a preexisting line, and a CAB assesment is desired, please make every effort to obtain a perpheral culture. Blood drawn from a newly inserted line that has never been previously used for blood drawing can be called a “peripheral sample” for the initial sample. If you call this a “newly established arterial line”, the lab WILL NOT perform a CAB assesment. (Note that CAB assesment is not indicated if all lines are newly established as a blood stream infection will to be “catheter associated”).
 - e. If a line is being removed, obtain cultures AND send the catheter tip for culture. If the tip has a colony count > 15 AND the blood culture grows the same organism, we can diagnose CAB. **Do not request a CAB assesment if the tip is being sent.**
2. Label each sample in a very detailed way. Identify the exact site (e.g., distal lumen of R SC triple-lumen). Be sure to identify the age of the line (6 days old, or inserted April 6). If the line is brand new and the blood culture will be the first sample drawn from this line, you can label it “peripheral”. Do not use the label “blood”; identify the type of line (e.g, arterial, peripheral) or choose “peripheral”. The more information provided, the easier it is to interpret subsequent results.
3. Before ordering any lab tests, please be sure to log into Power Chart with your own ID. Always close Power Chart if it has been accidentally left open by a colleague and remember to close Power Chart before you walk away from a computer. The mobile computers are very visible to visitors and should never be left open. If someone orders labs on the wrong patient (e.g., cross match) under your login, or accesses a chart that you do not have permission to access, you are accountable. You are required to protect your password/access.