

BLOOD CULTURES ORDERED

If patient is hypotensive, obtain cultures immediately and administer antibiotics within 1 hour of onset of hypotension. Do not delay starting antibiotics.

Does patient have an indwelling line?

Yes

No

Obtain 2 sets of peripheral cultures from 2 separate sites.

Is the line being removed

No

Obtain a set of blood cultures from each indwelling line (Including: PICC, Central Venous, Arterial, Port-a-Cath/Hickman or Dialysis line) PLUS one peripheral culture.
Obtain all samples within a 15 minute time frame.

The first blood sample drawn from a newly established line can be used for a "peripheral sample". Once the line has been accessed, it is considered an indwelling/established line.

Obtain a set of blood cultures from each indwelling line (including: PICC, Central Venous, Arterial, Port-a-Cath/Hickman or Dialysis line) PLUS one peripheral culture.

If the patient does not have a preexisting line, DO NOT send cultures for "CAB" assessment.

When ordering Labs, enter "CAB" (Catheter Associated Bacteremia assessment) in the comments section for each blood culture sent. CAB is only ordered to assess preexisting lines (not newly established).
CAB assessment can only be done if a peripheral sample is included and all samples are taken within a 15 minute window of time.

After the line is removed, send the tip for culture. DO NOT order CAB assessment. A positive blood culture with tip colony count > 15 indicates Catheter Associated Bacteremia.

When CAB is selected, all cultures are set-up at the same time, and monitored to identify the time that each specimen becomes positive (known as the Time-To-Positivity). A peripheral culture must be included. If the peripheral sample becomes positive with the same organism within 2 hours of an indwelling line, the patient has a bacteremia. If the peripheral sample becomes positive by > 2 hours after the indwelling line, Catheter Associated Bacteremia is suspected.

When ordering cultures in PowerChart, be sure to identify a) the type of line (e.g. triple lumen); the insertion location (e.g., L Subclavian) and the date of insertion.