



OSCE Checklist: Blood Culture Collection

Introduction	
1	Gather and prepare equipment
2	Wash your hands using alcohol gel. If your hands are visibly soiled, wash them with soap and water
3	Don PPE if appropriate
4	Introduce yourself to the patient including your name and role
5	Confirm the patient's name and date of birth
6	Briefly explain what the procedure will involve using patient-friendly language
7	Gain consent to proceed with blood culture collection
8	Check if the patient has any allergies
9	Adequately expose the patient's arms for the procedure
10	Position the patient so that they are sitting comfortably
11	Ask the patient if they have any pain before continuing with the clinical procedure
Choosing an arm	
11	Choose an arm you to perform venepuncture on and place a pillow under it
Choosing a vein	
12	Inspect the patient's arm for an appropriate venepuncture site
13	Apply the tourniquet approximately 4-5 finger-widths above the planned venepuncture site
14	Palpate the vein you have identified to assess if it is suitable
15	Once you have identified a suitable vein you may need to temporarily release the tourniquet
16	Don an apron (if not already wearing one) and wash your hands again
17	Don gloves
18	Clean the site using 2% chlorhexidine in 70% isopropyl alcohol and then allow to dry completely
Insertion of the needle	
19	Re-apply the tourniquet if removed previously and attach the needle to the barrel
20	Unsheathe the needle
21	Anchor the vein from below with your non-dominant hand by gently pulling on the skin distal to the insertion site
22	Warn the patient that they will experience a sharp scratch
23	Insert the needle through the skin at a 30-degree angle or less, with the bevel facing upwards
24	Advance the needle a further 1-2 mm into the vein after flashback is noted to ensure you are within the lumen

25	Lower and anchor the needle to the patient's skin using the wings of the butterfly needle	
26	Use your other hand to attach the aerobic blood culture bottle to the adapter, piercing the blood culture septum and allowing the bottle to fill with 10ml of blood	
27	Remove the aerobic bottle and then attach the anaerobic bottle, also filling it with 10ml of blood.	
28	Release the tourniquet	
29	Withdraw the needle and then apply gentle pressure to the site with some gauze or cotton wool	
30	Ask the patient to hold the gauze or cotton wool in place whilst you dispose of the needle into a sharps container	
31	Apply a dressing to the patient's arm	
32	Discard the used equipment into the appropriate clinical waste bin	
To complete the procedure...		
33	Explain to the patient that the procedure is now complete and that they should seek review if the venepuncture site becomes painful or inflamed	
34	Thank the patient for their time	
35	Document the patient's details on the blood sample bottles at the bedside (either pre-printed labels or handwritten)	
36	Dispose of PPE appropriately and wash your hands	
37	Send the blood samples to the lab for analysis in an appropriate plastic leak-proof bag with the completed laboratory request form	
38	Document the details of the procedure in the patient's notes	

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