



OSCE Checklist: Blood Culture Collection

| Introduction | |
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| 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 |

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| 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 | |

Read the full guide at
[geekymedics.com](https://www.geekymedics.com)



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