



OSCE Checklist: Blood Culture Collection

Introduction		
1	Gather and prepare equipment (including removing the caps from the blood culture bottles and cleaning the top of each with a separate cleaning swab)	
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		
12	Choose an arm you to perform venepuncture on and place a pillow under it	
Choosing a vein		
13	Inspect the patient's arm for an appropriate venepuncture site	
14	Apply the tourniquet approximately 4-5 finger-widths above the planned venepuncture site	
15	Palpate the vein you have identified to assess if it is suitable	
16	Once you have identified a suitable vein you may need to temporarily release the tourniquet	
17	Don an apron (if not already wearing one) and wash your hands again	
18	Don gloves	
19	Clean the site using 2% chlorhexidine in 70% isopropyl alcohol and then allow to dry completely	
Insertion of the needle		
20	Re-apply the tourniquet if removed previously and attach the needle to the barrel	
21	Unsheathe the needle	
22	Anchor the vein from below with your non-dominant hand by gently pulling on the skin distal to the insertion site	
23	Warn the patient that they will experience a sharp scratch	
24	Insert the needle through the skin at a 30-degree angle or less, with the bevel facing upwards	
25	Advance the needle a further 1-2 mm into the vein after flashback is noted to ensure you are within the lumen	

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

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