

Blood Culture Volume Monitoring

PRINCIPLE Larger volumes of blood increase the yield of true positive cultures. In adults, optimally 20mL of blood per culture set (two bottles) should be collected for culture. The laboratory should monitor collected blood volumes weekly and provide feedback to clinical staff.

SAFETY All specimens, reagents and controls should be handled as though capable of transmitting infectious diseases. Wear appropriate personal protective equipment when running patient samples or performing scheduled maintenance. Refer to: Policy and Procedures Safety Manual *Infection Control and Procedures*.

PROCEDURE

Step	Action
1	Compare liquid in sets of blood culture bottles to the MIN (1ml) and MAX (10 ml). See Blood Culture Volume Monitoring Log.
2	Record Date, Accession number, Patient location, Acceptability/Non-acceptability of volume, and initials on log.
3	Reviewed monthly by Supervisor and unacceptable results discussed with staff. Expected Results: <i>A (Acceptable)</i> -Liquid level should be between the two lines <i>NA or U (Unacceptable)</i> - Liquid level either below the line or above the line <i>Note: Unacceptable blood volume specimens must still be processed. Feedback will be given to specimen collectors who do not meet acceptable volumes.</i>

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Blood Culture Monitoring, Continued

HISTORY PAGE

Type of Change: New Major, Minor	Description of Change(s)	Name of Responsible Person/Date	Operations Director, Area Laboratory Review/Date	CLIA Laboratory Director Review/Date	Date Change Implemented
NEW		Ruby Co 8/13/18			