

## Blood Culture – Critical Shortage of Blood Culture Bottles

### Orderable: Blood Culture [LAB12346201]

Due to a nationwide shortage of blood culture bottles, all locations of the health system inventory have dropped to a critical level. We have approximately a 1-week supply on hand with limited distribution expected in the coming months.

To ensure we can perform blood cultures for those who need it most, we are asking providers to be judicious when ordering blood cultures.

Please see the recommendations below for guidance on the appropriate use of blood cultures:

**DO NOT** pre-emptively draw blood cultures if an order has not been placed.

<b>Blood Culture Recommendations</b>	
<b>Low Risk Conditions</b> ( <b>NOT</b> Recommended in most Circumstances)**	<b>High Risk Conditions</b> (Recommended)
Isolated fever and /or leukocytosis	Endocarditis
Non-severe cellulitis	Severe sepsis/septic shock
Lower UTI (e.g. cystitis, prostatitis)	Neutropenic fever
Non-severe CAP, HCAP	Fever in the presence of a central venous catheter
Postoperative fever within 48 hours of surgery	Isolated fever without source in any infant (<28 days of age)
<b>Repeat Blood Cultures</b>	
Documenting clearance: - <i>S. aureus</i> and <i>S. lugdunensis</i> BSI. (Perform every other day) - Catheter-related bacteremia prior to replacing catheter	
Blood cultures should <b>NOT</b> be repeated to document clearance until at least 24 hours of antimicrobial therapy have been administered.	

\*\* Does not apply to all situations and clinical judgement should always supersede these recommendations.

### References:

1. Fabre et al. Clin Inf Dis. Does this patient need blood cultures? A scoping review of indication for blood cultures in adult nonneutropenic inpatients. 2020. 71(5).

**For questions, please contact Pathology Client Services at (804) 828-7284 or Dr. Christopher Doern and Dr. Alexandra Bryson at (804) 628-4000.**