

Rapid Review

Wasting Before a Peripheral Blood Culture Sample Collection for Adults Only

Important Points to Remember:

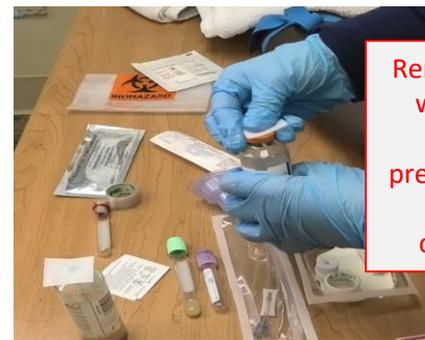
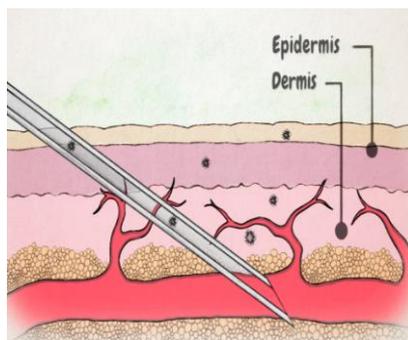
- Blood Culture Competency: <https://augustauniversity.box.com/s/2z25gye83fsglk44p5wplz1mnj6rpvbp>
- A waste sample should be collected prior to collecting a peripheral blood culture specimen.
- Performing an initial waste collection helps to decrease skin contamination risk.

RATIONALE: To ensure a waste is performed prior to a peripheral blood culture sample collection to reduce contamination rates and false positive results.

When performing a peripheral stick for blood culture collection, the first 2 mLs of blood should be collected in a waste vial or syringe THEN discarded.

• Why is this important?

- *Skin plugs/fragments will enter the culture specimen bottle and potentially contain microorganisms.*
- *Skin contamination increases the risk of blood culture contamination leading to false positives prompting unnecessary antimicrobial use, increase length of stay, and a false central line infection.*
- *At least 1.4 million contaminated blood culture events happen annually in the US causing \$6 billion in avoidable costs to the U.S. healthcare system.*



Remember to scrub the waste vial & culture bottle tops with preantivics wipe **BEFORE** using to decrease contamination risk.

https://www.aha.org/system/files/media/file/2021/08/AHA_Team_Training_Sponsored_Webinar_Slides_Aug_2021.pdf