

Blood Culture Policy

Priority: STAT

Specimen volume:

- a. adult patients: 10 ml of blood for each bottle.
- b. pediatric patients:

Weight (kg)	Suggested Volume
< 20 kg (Infants & children)	1-4 mls
20 – 40 kg (Children)	4-8 mls

Procedure of cultivation and working up:

After 12 hours of incubation at 37 C

- 1- direct film
- 2- plating and antibiogram
- 3- subculture : done on the following media
 - a) blood agar
 - b) chocolate agar
 - c) Mac Conkey's agar

Interpretation:

- **Preliminary result on 2nd day:** After 24 hours first report based on direct film
- **Preliminary result on 3rd day** After 48 hours 2nd report based on primary antibiogram and first subculture
- **final report on the 4th day:** based on 2ry antibiogram and full identification method
- **if there is no growth the sample considered negative after the 3rd day of continuous subculture (on the forth day of incubation)**