



July 2024

As the nationwide shortage of blood culture bottles continues to affect our health system, two Alerts have been created in Cerner. The Pop-Up alerts will not inhibit the provider from being able to order blood cultures, but instead will act as a reminder and provide a link for ordering recommendations. The provider will have the option to cancel or continue placing the order.

1. The first alert box is a reminder of the Blood culture bottle shortage and will provide ordering guidance. This Pop-up alert will be on all blood cultures ordered on patients ≥ 18 years.

INITIAL Blood Culture Collection is NOT recommended for:

For the conditions below, if sepsis is not present, a blood culture is not recommended due to low yield. If these conditions are met (low-yield condition and no sepsis) but a blood culture is still clinically indicated, ONE blood culture set will suffice.

- Isolated fever and/or leukocytosis
- Cellulitis
- Lower urinary tract infection (cystitis or prostatitis)
- Pyelonephritis
- Pneumonia
- Postoperative fever within 48 hours of surgery

REPEAT Blood Culture Collection is NOT recommended for:

- Demonstration of clearance of GRAM-NEGATIVE rod bloodstream infection in a patient who is clinically improving
- Persistent fevers in non-neutropenic patients without documented bloodstream infection and 72 hours of negative blood cultures (consider infectious disease consultant)
- DO NOT repeat blood cultures until at least 24 hours of antimicrobial therapy have been given

2. The second Pop-up alert will go out on all repeat blood cultures ordered within 48 hours from the previous set. Collection of additional blood culture sets may be indicated if initial sets are noninformative but recommended after 48-72 hours.

References:

- 1) BD life sciences, communication dated June 11, 2024
- 2) <https://doi.org/10.1093/cid/ciaa039>
- 3) CLSI. Principles and Procedures for Blood Cultures, 2nd ed. M47-A2. 202

Please direct any questions to:

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