

MEMO

To: Healthcare Partners
From: April Rivera - Asante Laboratory Outreach Manager
Date: November 7, 2024
Subject: New Blood Culture Orders, Instrument and Bottles

Beginning Tuesday, November 12, 2024 at 8 a.m., Asante Laboratories will be moving to a new blood culture instrument - BioMérieux BACT/ALERT VIRTUO. All blood cultures are sent to Rogue Regional Medical Center for incubation and subsequent testing if applicable.

Benefits of BACT/ALERT VIRTUO:

- High thermal stability and superior optics which enhance blood culture performance for more rapid time to detection.
- Transport - bottles can be held at room temperature for up to 24 hours before loading into instrument making this instrument ideal for outreach blood culture collections.
- **EPIC procedure codes** will change to the following:
 - LAB1235678 - Blood Culture
 - LAB1235679 - DTP Blood Culture

Blood Culture Collection Bottles will change to the following:

 BACT/ALERT FA Plus Ref: 410851	Standard Aerobic Bottle (pale green top) - BacT/ALERT® FA Plus
 BACT/ALERT FN Plus Ref: 410852	Standard Anaerobic Bottle (orange top)- BacT/ALERT® FN Plus
 BACT/ALERT PF Plus Ref: 410853	Pediatric Bottle (yellow top)- BacT/ALERT® PF Plus

Bactec Blood Culture Bottles (Current) will no longer be acceptable after November 12, 2024.

Specimen requirements:

A. Standard Blood Culture Set – Adults and Pediatrics >36.3 kg

1. Recommended total volume should be **16-20 mL**, divided equally between:
 - BIOMERIEUX™ BACT/ALERT® FA Plus Aerobic /FA bottle 8-10mL
 - BIOMERIEUX™ BACT/ALERT®FN Plus Lytic Anaerobic /FN bottle 8-10 mL
2. In general, culturing recommended volumes will improve recovery of bacteria by culture.
 - a. Low volume – If unable to obtain 16-20 mL, follow guidelines chart 1

Amount per Venipuncture	Amount in Aerobic Bottle	Amount in Anaerobic Bottle
Recommended: 16-20 mL	8-10 mL	8-10 mL
Low Volume: 9-15 mL	8 mL	Remaining volume obtained
Low Volume: 1-8 mL	All (1-8 mL)	N/A

Chart 1: Blood volume per bottle dependent upon amount obtained per venipuncture.

B. Pediatric Blood Culture

1. Blood culture volumes are based upon IDSA/ASM weight-based guidelines.

Weight (kg)	Culture Draw site/Order #1	Culture Draw site/Order #2	Blood Culture Bottle(s) Used
<2	1 mL minimum, 2 mL recommended	Not indicated	Pediatric
2.1-12.7	2 mL	2 mL recommended, if indicated by clinician	Pediatric Draw site #1 AND, WHEN ORDERED, Pediatric Draw site #2.
12.8-36.3	4 mL	2 mL	Pediatric Draw site #1 AND Pediatric Draw site #2
>36.3	8-10 mL	8-10 mL	Standard Aerobic Draw Site #1 AND Standard Aerobic Draw Site #2

Chart 2: Weight-Based Blood Culture volumes for pediatric patients (under age 18)

C. Differential Time to Positivity (DTP)

1. Recommended total volume should be **16-20 mL**, divided equally between:
 - BIOMERIEUX™ BACT/ALERT® FA Plus Aerobic /FA bottle 8-10mL
 - BIOMERIEUX™ BACT/ALERT®FN Plus Lytic Anaerobic /FN bottle 8-10 mL

NOTE: The volume drawn from the peripheral site and the central line must be equal.

2. This method requires simultaneous collection of blood specimens from two sites: peripheral site and central venous catheter.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact Microbiology Supervisor, Heather Rogers, M.S., MLS(ASCP) at (541) 789-4164.