



PEDIATRIC BLOOD AND MARROW TRANSPLANT PROGRAM

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Blood Culture Procedure

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PBMT-GEN-026 BLOOD CULTURE PROCEDURE

1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To obtain accurate blood specimens for microbiology testing.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 Infection remains the leading cause of morbidity and mortality in the patient undergoing stem cell transplantation. The patient is susceptible to infection complications, secondary to impaired defenses, as a result of immunosuppression and marrow ablative therapy.
- 2.2 Proper technique for obtaining blood cultures is necessary in order to identify infections and to provide proper antibiotic therapy.

3 SCOPE AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- 3.1 This is a nursing staff procedure outlining the process to obtain blood culture specimens to rule out possible bacterial infections in the Pediatric blood and marrow transplant (PBMT) patient.
- 3.2 Blood Cultures require an order from the physician or physician designee placed in the electronic medical record (EMR).

4 DEFINITIONS/ACRONYMS

- 4.1 EMR Electronic Medical Record
- 4.2 HUC Health Unit Coordinator
- 4.3 PBMT Pediatric Blood and Marrow Transplant

5 MATERIALS

- 5.1 Appropriate blood culture kits according to patient weight and physician order
- 5.2 10 ml syringes
- 5.3 10ml Normal Saline syringes
- 5.4 Alcohol pre pads
- 5.5 Gloves (non-sterile)

6 EQUIPMENT

- 6.1 NA

7 SAFETY

- 7.1 N/A

8 PROCEDURE

8.1 Initial Fever Spike:

8.1.1 Fever defined as temperature either:

- Greater than or equal to (\geq) 38.5 or
- 38.0 to 38.4 for 4 consecutive hours

8.1.2 Notify physician and obtain order.

8.1.3 Explain purpose of blood culture to the patient and/or caregiver.

8.1.4 Log into the EMR and print labels for blood cultures to be obtained.

8.1.5 Don gloves.

8.1.6 Thoroughly cleanse hub of lumen with alcohol prep pad for 15 seconds.

8.1.7 Draw 3 to 6 ml of blood from lumen for blood culture sample.

8.1.8 Flush line with 5 mL of normal saline and heparin lock if needed.

8.1.9 Inject blood sample into appropriate culture kits.

8.1.10 Collect labs in the EMR and place labels appropriately on blood culture bottles.

8.1.11 Repeat steps (8.1.3 thru 8.1.9) for each additional lumen of catheter.

8.1.12 Place all blood culture kits in the unit specimen window and notify the Health Unit Coordinator (HUC) to send for a transporter to take all kits to the microbiology laboratory.

9 RELATED DOCUMENTS/FORMS

9.1 NA

10 REFERENCES

10.1 Ernst, Dennis MT. The Right Way to Do Blood Cultures RN Vol 64(3) March 2001 pp 28-32.

10.2 Penwarden, Linda M. Montgomery Paul G. Developing a Protocol for Obtaining Blood

10.3 Cultures From central Venous Catheters and Peripheral Sites Clinical Journal of Oncology Nursing Sept/Oct 2002 Volume 6 No. 5 pp 268-270.

11 REVISION HISTORY

Revision No.	Author	Description of Change(s)
06	S. McCollum	Section 8.1 temperature range adjusted Section 8.1.6: Changed volume to 3 to 6 mL (previously read 5 to 10 mL)

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