



HEALTH HOLDING

HAFER ALBATIN HEALTH  
CLUSTER  
MATERNITY AND  
CHILDREN HOSPITAL

<b>Department:</b>	Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU)		
<b>Document:</b>	Departmental Policy and Procedure		
<b>Title:</b>	Blood Cultures- Neonatal		
<b>Applies To:</b>	All NICU Staff		
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## 1. PURPOSE:

- 1.1 To obtain blood cultures to diagnose sepsis.

## 2. DEFINITIONS:

- 2.1 **Blood Culture** - is a test that checks for foreign invaders like bacteria, yeast, and other microorganisms in your blood. Having these pathogens in your bloodstream can be a sign of a blood infection, a condition known as bacteremia. A positive blood culture means that you have bacteria in your blood.

## 3. POLICY:

- 3.1 There should be a clear written physician order.
- 3.2 Blood culture shall be collected by staff nurse in an aseptic technique.
- 3.3 Specimen should preferably be collected before commencing antibiotics if patient's condition permits.

## 4. PROCEDURE:

- 4.1 Apply the tourniquet if necessary after locating the vein to be used.
- 4.2 Swab site with chlorhexidine and allow drying for 20 seconds. Do not touch the site for culture after cleansing with chlorhexidine.
- 4.3 Obtain sample with needle or butterfly and syringe. Insert slowly into the vein applying gentle suction to withdraw the blood.
- 4.4 Apply 4 x4 gauze swabs to the site, maintaining pressure for hemostasis.
- 4.5 Insert blood sample into culture medium, using new sterile needle for insertion.
- 4.6 Label the specimen with the patient's name, medical record number, date and time.
- 4.7 Send the specimen to the laboratory with requisition.
- 4.8 Documentation:
  - 4.8.1 Document the site, date/ time the specimen was drawn and person drawing the blood.
  - 4.8.2 Newborn's response to the procedure.

## 5. MATERIALS AND EQUIPMENT:

- 5.1 Syringe with needle or butterfly infusion set.
- 5.2 Chlorhexidine 2% swabs
- 5.3 Gauze 4 x4 swabs
- 5.4 Small tourniquet
- 5.5 Neonatal blood culture medium.
- 5.6 Sterile needle
- 5.7 Sterile gloves

## 6. RESPONSIBILITIES:

- 6.1 Physician
- 6.2 Nurse





## 7. APPENDICES:

N/A

## 8. REFERENCES:

- 8.1 Ministry of Health, Policies and Procedures in Neonatology, Guidelines for Neonatal Care. Page no: 169
- 8.2 <https://www.healthline.com/health/blood-culture>

## 9. APPROVALS:

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