

## **Clinical Skill: Blood Cultures**

Mr Jon Snow has presented to the emergency room with suspected sepsis.

Please take blood cultures from this patient and verbalise what you are doing during each step.

Please communicate with the examiner/simulated patient but perform the skill on the manikin (or if equipment is not available, please verbally state in the correct order, all the steps you would do to complete this skill)

This station will last 10 minutes.

Step	Mark
1. Student introduces themselves	
2. 3 points of ID checked + safety checks completed	
3. Checked for allergies	
4. Explains the procedure clearly avoiding the use of jargon. Must explain the specific risks and benefits of doing this procedure.	
5. Gains informed consent	
6. Check relevant past medical history and drug history, such as coagulopathies, needle phobia and anticoagulant use. Also check recent antibiotic use.	
7. Apply PPE	
8. Clean trolley and tray	
9. Collect the following equipment: blood culture pack, sharps bin, and micropore tape. Ensure that both bottles are covered with dust caps	
10. Apply the tourniquet and find a palpable vein, then remove the tourniquet	
11. Clean the chosen area with chlorhexidine for 30 seconds using a crosshatch technique	
12. Remove the dust caps and clean the tops of both bottles for 15 seconds each, using a different corner of the wipe for each bottle	
13. Reapply the tourniquet, and connect the adaptor to the needle using ANTT	
14. Insert the butterfly needle at a 35 degree angle, with the bevel up	
15. Attach the aerobic bottle first and allow it to fill up with 10ml of blood	
16. Attach the anaerobic bottle next following ANTT and allow it to fill up with 10ml of blood	
17. Remove the tourniquet and then remove the needle. Apply pressure to the area using cotton or gauze	
18. Close the safety cap on the needle and dispose in a sharps bin	
19. Fill in the appropriate paperwork	
20. Ensure bleeding has stopped and apply gauze over the wound	