**Aseptic Technique**
For Taking a Blood Culture Sample (continued)

**Step 13**
**Insert - Avoid Touching Critical Parts**
- The safety blood collection set must be held and positioned without touching the critical part that is inserted into the patient.
- Avoid touching the skin at the insertion site. Do not re-palpate. Perform sampling and release tourniquet. Ensure sharps have been disposed of immediately on removal from the patient.

**Step 14**
**Sampling Completed**
- Ensure sharps have been disposed of immediately. When sampling is complete, apply dressing/swab on puncture site.

**Step 15**
**Inoculate Bottles**
- If using a needle free collection set, this step is not necessary. Without touching critical parts, inoculate blood culture bottles (if blood is taken for other samples always fill blood cultures bottles first and keep the bottle upright). Inoculate the aerobic bottle first. Dispensing blood into other containers before the culture bottles increases the risk of contamination.

**Step 16**
**Remove Gloves and Apron**
- Remove gloves first, then apron and dispose of into healthcare waste.

**Step 17**
**Perform Hand Hygiene Moment**
- Perform hand hygiene (WHO Hand Hygiene Moment 3 after body fluid exposure risk or Hand Hygiene Moment 4 after touching a patient) with ABHR, providing hands are visibly clean.

**Step 18**
**Document Procedure**
- Label the blood culture bottles and complete microbiology forms and documentation as per local policy and place in patient’s case notes.
ASEPTIC TECHNIQUE
For Taking a Blood Culture Sample

PROCEDURE PHASES:
PREPARATION AESTHETIC PROCEDURE POST PROCEDURE

STEP 1
CHECK IF CLINICALLY INDICATED
- Check that the sample is indicated for the client.

STEP 2
HAND HYGIENE MOMENT 2
- Remember to perform hand hygiene (World Health Organisation Hand Hygiene Moment 2 - before clean and aseptic procedures).
- Put on PPE.

STEP 3
PREPARE SURFACES
- Ensure trolley or tray (safe sharp system) is clean and any other contaminated surfaces involved in the procedure are cleaned and disinfected following local policy. Hand hygiene should be performed after patient contact. Remove PPE and carry out hand hygiene.

STEP 4
GATHER EQUIPMENT
- Gather equipment. Check the packaging is intact and not obviously contaminated. Also that the expiry date remains valid.

STEP 5
EXPLAIN PROCEDURE TO PATIENT
- Explain the procedure and seek consent. Always introduce yourself to the person and check their identity bracelet.

STEP 6
PUT ON DISPOSABLE PLASTIC APRON
- Put on disposable plastic apron to protect the patient and your clothing. Perform hand hygiene before preparing sterile field.

STEP 7
PREPARE STERILE EQUIPMENT
- Open and prepare sterile equipment without touching critical ports. The needle/device is held and positioned without touching the port that is inserted into the patient.

STEP 8
DISINFECT RUBBER SEPTUM
- Remove blood culture bottle tops and disinfect rubber septum thoroughly with antiseptic containing 70% isopropyl alcohol. Remember to allow to dry prior to inoculation into the sample bottle.

STEP 9
HAND HYGIENE MOMENT 1
- Perform hand hygiene using ABHR (World Health Organisation Hand Hygiene Moment 1 - before touching the patient), providing your hands are visibly clean.

STEP 10
PALPATE THE VEIN
- Apply single use tourniquet and palpate vein. You must not re-palpate following disinfection.

STEP 11
CLEAN SKIN WITH ANTI-SEPTIC WIPE
- Ensure patient’s skin is visibly clean – if not wash with soap and water and perform hand hygiene using ABHR (WHO Hand Hygiene Moment 2 – before clean / aseptic procedures). Ensure that a skin antiseptic containing 70% isopropyl alcohol is used to cleanse the skin and left to dry. (Note: This does not preclude the use of 2% chlorhexidine in 70% isopropyl alcohol, where local settings choose to do so.) Follow manufacturer’s instruction on the cleaning process and drying.

STEP 12
HAND HYGIENE AND PUT ON GLOVES
- Perform hand hygiene using ABHR (World Health Organisation Hand Hygiene Moment 2 - before clean and aseptic procedures). Put on non-sterile gloves.

PROCEDURE PHASES:
PREPARATION AESTHETIC PROCEDURE POST PROCEDURE