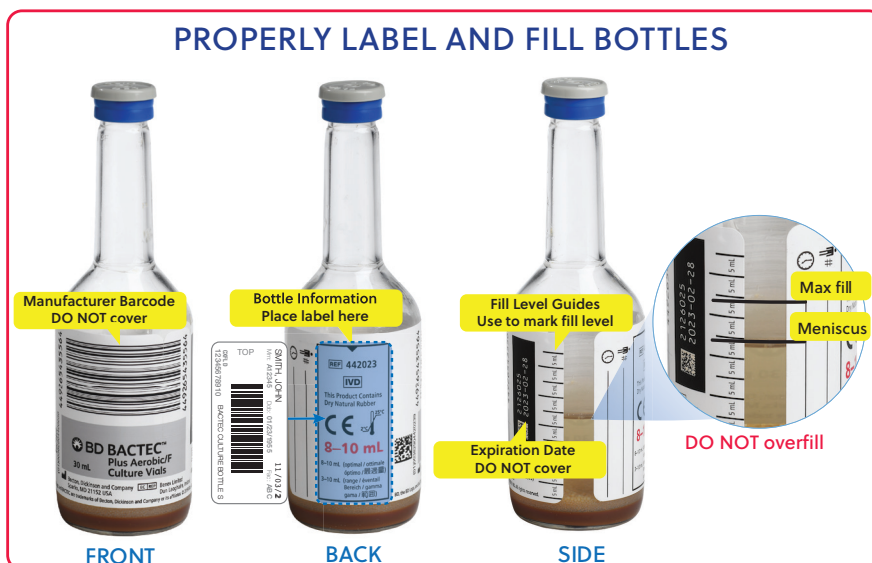


A CULTURE SET CONSISTS OF TWO BACTEC CULTURE BOTTLES



PREPARATION TIPS

- Follow your facility's Standard Operating Procedure for the collection of blood culture using sterile technique. Practice Standard Precautions to avoid needle-stick injuries.
- Current guidelines recommend 2-3 sets be collected for optimal detection of bacteremia.
- Visually inspect bottles for expiration date, contamination, cracks or signs of deterioration.
- The recommended fill volume is **8-10 mL**. Use a syringe to ensure correct volume draw and/or mark the optimal fill volume on each bottle using the media meniscus as a guide (each fill line is approx. 5 mL).

COLLECTION & PROCESSING

- Site Disinfection**
 - Cleanse all sites (e.g., venipuncture and access sites: arterial port from blood line, arterial line from fistula needles and catheter port) for 30 seconds with a **70% Alcohol Prep Pad** and another 30 seconds with **iodine (e.g., Betadine) or chlorhexidine**.
Note: Adequate disinfection minimizes contamination from skin and environmental organisms.
- Preparation of BACTEC Culture Bottles**
 - Remove flip-off dust caps from culture bottles, disinfect rubber bottle tops with a **70% Alcohol Prep Pad** immediately prior to inoculating and allow to dry.
CAUTION: Do not use any form of iodine to disinfect the tops of the bottles. It may affect the integrity of the rubber top of the culture bottle, causing false positive results.
- Collection**
 - Push and hold Vacutainer holder over top of aerobic bottle to puncture septum. Fill to **8-10 mL**.
 - Remove holder from aerobic bottle. Immediately push/hold onto anaerobic bottle. Fill to **8-10 mL**.
 - Remove and discard the holder.
CAUTION: Do not overfill or underfill BACTEC bottles, as this may reduce sensitivity and adversely affect recovery of microorganisms.
- Label and Ship**
 - Properly label samples with required patient information. Label each set with a separate order number, while keeping BACTEC culture bottle barcode visible. Place in a transport bag.
 - Transport at **room temperature, not refrigerated**.
 - Stable for **48 hours** after collection.