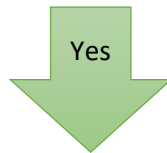


**BLOOD CULTURE DECISION TREE**  
For Patients with Central Lines

Concern for blood stream infection  
**AND/OR**  
Patient with signs of ***new or worsening***  
sepsis, severe sepsis, or septic shock –  
**(Refer to SIRS SYMPTOMS)**

No

Consider non-infectious sources of SIRS  
symptoms → PE, pancreatitis, etc.  
***Defer blood cultures if appropriate.***



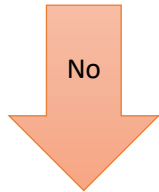
2 sets of Blood Cultures  
1-Central Line  
1-Peripheral

CVAD with purulence,  
inflammation,  
thrombosis?

Yes



Consider removing CVAD  
and if removed, **CULTURE TIP.**  
If new central line is  
necessary, insert central  
line at new site, once  
bacteremia has been ruled  
out.  
**\*\*NEVER EXCHANGE  
CENTRAL LINE OVER A  
WIRE IF INFECTION IS  
SUSPECTED\*\***



Draw 2 sets of **PERIPHERAL** Blood  
Cultures. **Each set to be drawn from  
separate venipuncture site.**  
*Blood Cultures NOT to be drawn from  
Peripheral IVs or Arterial Lines.*



**PHLEBOTOMY TO DRAW  
PERIPHERAL BLOOD CULTURES!**

If patient is unstable or  
phlebotomist is not available, a  
trained RN may draw.

**\*\*\*Must attempt peripheral blood  
cultures x2 at minimum\*\***

If unable to obtain peripheral blood  
cultures; samples can be obtained from 2  
different CVADS if more than one CVAD is  
present  
**OR**  
from 2 separate lumens if only 1 CVAD  
present

**SIRS SYMPTOMS**

**Sepsis:** **2 or more** SIRS  
symptoms by known or  
suspected infection

**Severe Sepsis:** Sepsis with organ  
dysfunction (hypotension/hypo  
perfusion) caused by sepsis

**Septic Shock:** Sepsis with  
persistent or refractory  
hypotension or tissue hypo  
perfusion despite fluid  
resuscitation

**SIRS symptoms:** Temp <96.8 or  
≥ 100.4; HR >90 bpm; RR >20;  
PaCO2 <32mmHg; WBC >12,000  
or ≤ 4,000 cells/mm3 or  
>10%bands.

***Blood cultures are not indicated within 48 hours from previous culture,  
unless new or worsening sepsis is suspected. If still requested, approval  
from Attending MD or ID consult must be obtained***

Approved: 9/22/2020