DO NOT FORGET · THE SHORT CHECKLIST



Blood cultures

Aseptic collection of paired aerobic and anaerobic blood culture bottles to identify bloodstream infection while minimising contamination.

EM Orbit

Patient reference	Date	Time	Completed by

The 4 steps that must not be missed

- [ ] BEFORE

Do not delay antibiotics in suspected sepsis or meningitis in order to obtain blood cultures.

Take cultures before the first dose only if this does not delay treatment beyond the target time (within 1 hour for suspected sepsis with high risk features).

- [ ] BEFORE

Do not re-palpate the vein after cleaning the skin.

If you must, put on sterile gloves and re-clean the site.

- [ ] DURING

Do not overfill the bottles.

Overfilling can give false positive signals on automated systems.

- [ ] DURING

Do not change needles between venepuncture and inoculation, and do not re-sheath needles.

Changing needles increases needlestick injury risk and does not reduce contamination.

The short list: an aid to memory, not the whole procedure. The full checklist is at the QR code. It does not replace your local protocol or your clinical judgement.