



## Blood Culture Bottle Change

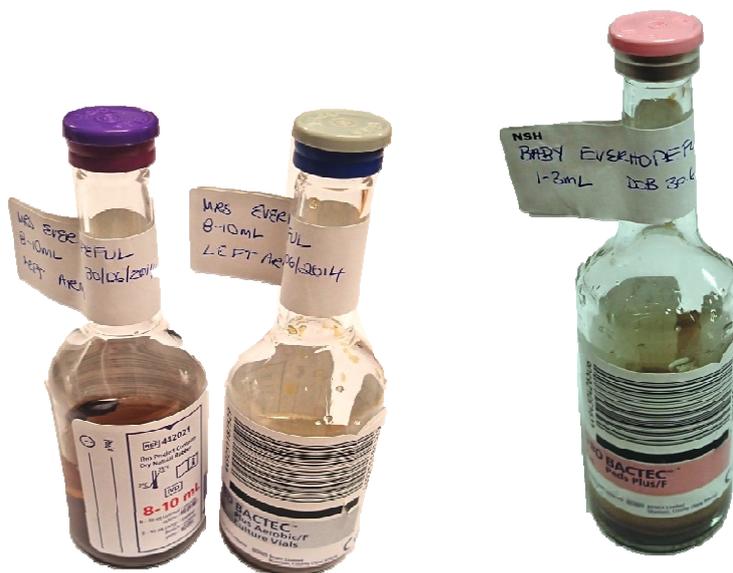
From 1<sup>st</sup> November, any departments putting in orders for blood culture bottles will be supplied with new plastic bottles, for standard ADULT sets only.

These are smaller, lighter and less likely to break if dropped. They are therefore able to be transported in the Lamson tube in a sealed plastic specimen bag only, as per other specimens.

PLEASE NOTE: Paediatric bottles and MycoF Lytic bottles (for mycobacterial/fungal culture) will still be glass and therefore continue to require the additional protection of the plastic culture media vial holder for safe transport.

Procedures for collection of patient samples will not change. Although slightly smaller, the bottles are still optimised for a sample volume of 8-10ml blood per bottle.

**Labelling of these smaller bottles is critical however, to ensure that neither the bottle barcodes, nor the base sensor, are obscured by patient identifiers.** We recommend making a 'flag' of the label around the neck of the bottles, as shown below; or patient details written on the bottle in the space provided (with two patient identifiers e.g. NHI number and name).



ADULT (plastic)

PAEDIATRIC (glass)

If you have any queries or concerns, please contact the Microbiology Charge Scientist or Clinical Microbiologist.

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