MERT Minute: Uncollected Blood Cultures

BAPTIST HEALTH

Uncollected Blood Culture BestPractice Advisory (BPA)

BPA will fire if **all** the following criteria are met:

- Blood cultures are ordered and not yet collected
- Antimicrobial is ordered and the barcode is scanned for administration

This BPA should only be overridden in the following circumstances:

- The **ordering provider confirms necessity to** immediately administer antimicrobials
- Collection of cultures would **unnecessarily delay administration of antimicrobials**
- Failure to immediately administer antimicrobials would **harm the patient**

PURPOSE:

- Appropriate collection of blood cultures for pathogen identification to ensure the best chance for patients to receive optimal antimicrobial therapy while minimizing unnecessary exposure

IMPORTANCE:

- CMS Sepsis Core Measure includes collection of appropriate cultures prior to administration of the first dose of antimicrobials
- CDC outlines the importance of cultures prior to administration of antimicrobials in their recommendations for antimicrobial stewardship for health systems

"Sterilization of cultures can occur within an hour of the first dose of an appropriate antimicrobial."

REMEMBER:

- Obtaining adequate **cultures before the administration of antimicrobials** is imperative for proper treatment
- Cultures **should not cause significant delay** in the start of antimicrobials
- **At least 2 sets** of blood cultures (both aerobic and anaerobic bottles) should be obtained

BENEFITS:

- Increased likelihood of identifying the offending organism
- Improved diagnostic ability and patient prognosis
- Provides more appropriate and definitive treatment for patients which improves morbidity and mortality
- Mitigates antimicrobial resistance by limiting unnecessary use of broad-spectrum agents
- Improves patient care due to better outcomes and shorter length of stay