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Section: Blood Culture Manual	Subject Title: Introduction	
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INTRODUCTION

Although this section is mainly directed towards the processing of blood cultures, occasionally other specimen types (e.g. Sterile fluids, Bone marrow, abscess material) are received in blood culture bottles and thus their processing and work-up will be described in this section (Appendix V). The current blood culture system used in the Microbiology Laboratory is the non-radiometric BacT/Alert System manufactured by Organon Teknika.

Specimens collected using the BacT/Alert bottles must be accessioned and processed as quickly as possible upon arrival in the laboratory.

All reagents, kits and media **MUST** be quality controlled before use. All tests must include appropriate controls. (Refer to the Quality Control Manual).