

**At an academic medical center, there was clinical variation in ordering and obtaining blood cultures which led to unnecessary culturing, increased use of central venous lines for blood culture draws, and increased contamination rates” Foster et al (2017).**

Background:

Central line associated bloodstream infections have a substantial impact on both patient mortality and the healthcare organization’s financial burden. At an academic medical center, there was clinical variation in ordering and obtaining blood cultures which led to unnecessary culturing, increased use of central venous lines for blood culture draws, and increased contamination rates. Using Lean methodology, a rapid improvement event (RIE) was held in the medical Intensive Care Unit (ICU) which revealed variation in practice with multiple national practice guidelines, provider beliefs, and level of experience of all health care team members.

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Reference:

Foster, M.K., Kopsas-Kingsley, B. and Davis, C.R. (2017) Reducing Blood Culturing with Lean Methodology. American Journal of Infection Control. 45(6), Supplement, p.S27.

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