ICU CLAB definition and reporting

**CLAB is defined as:**
- a blood stream infection with no other apparent source of infection
- which occurs in a patient who has a centrally or peripherally inserted central line or has had a central line removed within 48 hrs of blood stream infection (BSI) diagnosis

**CLAB is reported to NSW Health if:**
- detected more than 48 hrs after ICU admission or within 48 hrs of ICU discharge
- it is a new event (i.e. not within 14 days of previous BSI with the same organism)
- satisfies one of the following criteria:

1. At least one bottle from a blood culture is reported by the laboratory as having grown a recognised pathogen

2. Patient has one or more of the following signs or symptoms*:
   - Fever (>38°C)
   - Chills
   - Hypotension, and
   - The same* potential contaminant organism is cultured from two or more blood cultures drawn on separate occasions (within 48 hours)

3. Patient is less than 1 year of age, and
   - Patient has one or more of the following signs or symptoms*:
     - Fever (>38° rectal)
     - Hypothermia
     - Apnoea
     - Bradycardia, and
   - The same* potential contaminant is cultured from two or more blood cultures drawn on separate occasions (within 48 hours)

**RECOGNISED PATHOGENS**
A few of the recognised pathogens are *S. aureus*, Enterococcus spp., *E. coli*, *Pseudomonas* spp., *Klebsiella* spp., *Candida* spp. Excludes potential contaminant organisms.

**POTENTIAL CONTAMINANTS**
Examples include diphtheroids [Corynebacterium spp.], *Bacillus* spp. [not B. anthracis], *Propionibacterium* spp., coagulase-negative staphyloccoci [including S. epidermidis], viridans group streptococci, *Aerococcus* spp., *Micrococcus* spp.

**OPTIMAL BLOOD CULTURE COLLECTION**
- A blood culture set comprises 2 bottles (aerobic and anaerobic) in adult or 1 paediatric bottle in infant/ small child
- Collect 2 blood culture sets from separate venepunctures (not via existing central or arterial line) to evaluate each sepsis episode
- Adult: 10mLs of blood is required for each bottle (avoid over-filling)
- Paediatric: generally 1-3mLs required
- Disinfect skin and top of blood culture bottles with alcohol (1 minute)
- Use aseptic technique (sterile gloves, no touch technique)