

Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh Teaching Hospitals

NHS Foundation Trust

Information Governance Department

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Ref: FOI/2023/8704

Date Received: 20th February 2023

Response Due: 21st March 2023

Date: 27th March 2023

Dear Sir/Madam

You asked:

1. Of the following, which guidelines does your Trust follow for the diagnosis and treatment of meningitis/encephalitis: (Please answer: Yes/No)

- **NICE Guidelines (CG102) - Bacterial meningitis in under 16s: recognition, diagnosis and management**

Yes

- **UK Joint Specialist Societies guideline on the diagnosis and management of acute meningitis and meningococcal sepsis in immunocompetent adults (published 2016)**

No

- **Association of British Neurologists and British Infection Association National Guidelines – Management of suspected viral encephalitis in adults (published 2011)**

No

- **Association of British Neurologists and British Paediatric Allergy, Immunology and Infection Group National Guidelines – Management of suspected viral encephalitis in children (published 2011)**

No

2. Does your Trust have any locally developed/adapted guidelines for the diagnosis and treatment of meningitis/encephalitis in both adults and paediatric patients?

If yes, please state which guidelines have been adapted and please provide a copy of your local guidelines.

No locally adapted adult meningitis guidelines in the trust.

3. What are the top 3 roles in your Trust, in order of involvement, that are responsible for the development of local pathways and guidelines for meningitis/encephalitis?

Consultant Microbiologist; Consultant acute physician/ Cons. paediatrician; Consultant Neurologist

4. Does your Trust typically take samples of blood cultures from patients with suspected meningitis/encephalitis within: (Please select answer)

- 1 hour of admission?
- 2-4 hours of admission?
- 4-8 hours of admission?
- 8> hours of admission?

Bloods cultures done within 1 hr of admission

5. Does your Trust consistently carry out lumbar punctures in patients with no contradictions who have suspected meningitis/encephalitis? (Yes/No)

If yes, who performs the lumbar puncture? (Please specify job role)

Yes we do LP in patients suspected of meningitis, LP is done by our senior IMTs and ST3 + doctors.

6. Does your Trust consistently take cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) samples via lumbar puncture from patients with suspected meningitis/encephalitis within: (Please select answer)

- 1 hour of admission?
- 1-2 hours of admission?
- 2-4 hours of admission?
- 4-8 hours of admission?
- 8-12 hours of admission?
- >12 hours of admission?

CSF samples are usually taken 4-8 hrs of admission.

7. Does your Trust administer antibiotics to patients where appropriate prior to taking blood culture and CSF samples? (Yes/No)

Yes

8. Does your Trust consistently administer antibiotics to patients with suspected meningitis/encephalitis within: (Please select answer)

- 1 hours of admission?
- 2-4 hours of admission?
- 4-8 hours of admission?
- 8> hours of admission?

Abx within 1 hr of admission.

9. Which of the following guidelines does your Trust follow for the microbiological investigation of meningitis/encephalitis: (Please select: Yes/No)

- UK Standards for Microbiology Investigations – Meningoencephalitis (published 2014)

Yes

- **UK Standards for Microbiology Investigations – Investigation of Cerebrospinal Fluid (published 2017)**

Yes

**10. Does your Trust have any local adaptations or amendments to the two UK Standards for Microbiology Investigations listed in the above question?
If yes, please provide a copy of your local amendments.**

These documents are currently under review.

11. Following lumbar puncture on a patient with suspected meningitis/encephalitis, how long are the turnaround times from point of receiving specimen to result on the following tests: (Please select answer for each result)

a) Cell count (<1 hour, 1-2 hours, 2-4 hours or >4 hours)

< 1 Hour

b) Gram staining (<1 hour, 1-2 hours, 2-4 hours or >4 hours)

< 1 Hour

c) Bacterial culture (<1 hour, 1-2 hours, 2-4 hours or >4 hours)

< 1 Hour

d) PCR (<1 hour, 1-2 hours, 2-4 hours or >4 hours)

< 4 Hours

12. Where does your Trust process CSF samples?

In the microbiology laboratory on the Salford Royal site

13. Does your Trust perform PCR testing to test samples from patients with suspected meningitis/encephalitis? (Yes/No)

No

14. If PCR testing is carried out in your Trust, which bacterial and viral pathogens are tested for? (Please separate your answer by bacterial and viral pathogens)

N/A

If you are not entirely satisfied with this response, please do not hesitate to contact the Information Governance Department on email address provided. If we do not hear from you within 28 days, we will assume that we have been able to accommodate your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Yours sincerely,



Sanjay Arya
Medical Director

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If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to make a complaint or request a review of our decision, you should write to: Information Governance Department, Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh NHS Foundation Trust, Suite 9, Buckingham Row, Brick Kiln Lane, Wigan, WN1 1XX.

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision at:

The Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
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