

Ref: FOI/2024/9508

Date Received: 10th January 2024

Response Due: 7th February 2024

Date: 7th February 2024

Dear Sir/Madam

With reference to your request for information received on 10th January 2024, I can confirm in accordance with Section 1 (1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 that we do hold the information you have requested. A response to each part of your request is provided below.

In your request you asked:

- 1. Prior to blood culture collection, what skin asepsis solution does your hospital/Trust/Health Board use in the skin preparation/ cleaning process - (a) licensed skin antiseptic applicator (b) licensed skin disinfection wipe (c) non licensed wipe (d) other?**

(a) Licensed skin antiseptic applicator

- 2. How long do you clean the patient's skin for and what technique is used?**

30 seconds in a cross hatched method

- 3. How long does your organisation allow the patients skin to dry before blood culture collection?**

Until dry

- 4. Do you know the percentage of contamination rate of blood cultures in your organisation?**

2.5% contamination rate

- 5. What is the management process following a confirmed blood sample contamination. Is it escalation to (a) infection control team (b) microbiology (c) education and development (d) other, please specify or (e) no process?**

MRSA and MSSA contaminated blood cultures are referred to infection control team/ microbiologist for route cause analysis that may lead to education and development. Blood culture contamination rates are presented and discussed at the Trust infection prevention and control committee; blood culture contamination reduction plans are produced for divisions as required.

If you are not entirely satisfied with this response, please do not hesitate to contact the Information Governance Department via the email address provided. If we do not hear from you within 40 days, we will assume that we have been able to accommodate your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ehsan Haqqani', is centered on a light-colored rectangular background.

Ehsan Haqqani
Associate Director of Governance & Patient Safety

PLEASE NOTE:

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
Wilmslow
Cheshire, SK9 5AF

Helpline number: 0303 123 111