



Ref: FOIA Reference 2023/24-667

Date: 26th January 2024

Email foi@uhnm.nhs.uk

Dear

I am writing to acknowledge receipt of your email dated 10th January 2024 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) and regarding blood contamination.

As of 1st November 2014 University Hospitals of North Midlands NHS Trust (UHNM) manages two hospital sites – Royal Stoke University Hospital, and County Hospital (Stafford). Therefore the response below is for the two sites combined from that date where appropriate.

Q1 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?**

A1 (c) 2% chlorhexidine/70% alcohol wipe

Q2 How long do you clean the patient's skin for and what technique is used?

A2 For 30 seconds using a cross hatch method

Q3 How long does your organisation allow the patients skin to dry before blood culture collection?

A3 Allow to dry for 30 Seconds

Q4 Do you know the percentage of contamination rate of blood cultures in your organisation?

A4 The overall percentage for the last completed fiscal year (2022/23) was 4.03%

Q5 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?

A5 (c) Education and development

*Please note that any individuals identified do not give consent for their personal data to be processed for the purposes of direct marketing.

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An anonymised copy of this request can be found on the Trust's disclosure log, please note that all requests can be found at the following link: <http://www.uhnm.nhs.uk/aboutus/Statutory-Policies-and-Procedures/Pages/Freedom-of-Information-Disclosure-Log.aspx>

This letter confirms the completion of this request. A log of this request and a copy of this letter will be held by the Trust.

If you have any queries related to the response provided please in the first instance contact my office.

Should you have a complaint about the response or the handling of your request, please also contact my office to request a review of this. If having exhausted the Trust's FOIA complaints process you are still not satisfied, you are entitled to approach the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) and request an assessment of the manner in which the Trust has managed your request.

The Information Commissioner may be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF or via www.ico.org.uk.

Yours,



University Hospitals
of North Midlands
NHS Trust

Rachel Montinaro
Data Security and Protection Manager - Records

