



Ref: FOIA Reference 2023/24-065

Date: 16th May 2023

Email foi@uhn.nhs.uk

Dear

I am writing to acknowledge receipt of your email dated 27th April 2023 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding IDS Blood Culture

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 In June 2022 NHS England published a document entitled ‘Improving the blood culture pathway’ which included a few recommendations regarding blood culture collection and data that should be collected and reported on at Board level. Can you please provide me with answers to the following questions?

**Does your Trust have a process for skin preparation/cleaning prior to blood collection?
Y/N**

A1 Yes

Q2 Do you take two sets of blood cultures each time as recommended in the guidance? Y/N

A2 Yes

Q3 If no, what percentage of patients do have two sets of blood cultures taken?

A3 information not held

Q4 Do you measure the volume of blood taken each time a blood culture is taken (the recommended amount is 20ml per sample)? Y/N

A4 Yes

Q5 Do you measure the time between blood sample collection and the sample being loaded onto an analyser instrument (the recommended maximum time is four hours)? Y/N

A5 Yes

Q6 If yes, what is the average time?

A6 No, data is collected in percentage of samples being loaded within 4 hours

Q7 Do you collect data on blood sample contamination? Y/N

A7 Yes

Q8 Is the data described above reported at Board level as recommended?

A8 Yes

*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.

If following review of the responses I can be of any further assistance please contact my secretary on 01782 671612.

Yours,



Rachel Montinaro
Data Security and Protection Manager - Records