

FOI REF: 24/028

6th February 2024

Tel: 0300 131 4500
Website: www.esht.nhs.uk

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT

I am responding to your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act. The answers to your specific questions are as follows:

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? Chloraprep 1ml.](#)
- b) **Licensed skin disinfection wipe?**
- c) **Non-licensed wipe?**
- d) **Other?**

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

[Back and forth hashtag technique epic 3 guidelines.](#)

3) How long does your organisation allow the patient's skin to dry before blood culture collection?

[30 seconds.](#)

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

[5% for the Trust for 2023.](#)

Cont.../

- 5) **What is the management process following a confirmed blood sample contamination. Is it escalation to:**
- a) Infection control team? Currently, only MRSA and MSSA are reported.
 - b) **Microbiology?**
 - c) **Education and development?**
 - d) Other, please specify? When Vascular Access Team are informed training is offered the VAT also provides regular blood culture training twice monthly that staff can access via learning and development.
 - e) **No process?**

If I can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Should you be dissatisfied with the Trust's response to your request, you have the right to request an internal review. Please write to the Freedom of Information Department (esh-tr.foi@nhs.net), quoting the above reference, within 40 working days. The Trust is not obliged to accept an internal review after this date.

Should you still be dissatisfied with your FOI request, you have the right of complaint to the Information Commissioner at the following address:

The Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire SK9 5AF

Telephone: 0303 123 1113

Yours sincerely

Information Management Team
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