

FOI REF: 25/225

24th March 2025

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:

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:

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

Yes.

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

No.

3. **If no, what percentage of patients do have two sets of blood cultures taken?**

Not recorded.

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

Yes, 10 mls per bottle.

5. **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**

No.

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6. If yes, what is the average time?

Not applicable.

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

Yes.

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

No.

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

Freedom of Information Department
esh-tr.foi@nhs.net