

**Freedom of Information Request**

**Ref: 23-196**

11 April 2023

By Email

Dear Sir/Madam

Thank you for your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The Trust's response is as follows:

- We can confirm that we do hold the information you are requesting

**1. How do you test for H. Pylori infection during upper GI endoscopies ? Please specify what tests you use, eg, Culture Biopsy (Pathology), Urease.**

Endoscopy service: Urease test on biopsies taken at endoscopy. This is a point of care test giving a result within 5-10 minutes.

Histological assessment for Helicobacter pylori – look for it on microscopic examination of biopsies.

It can also be tested on faecal antigen, but we usually would ask GP to do this

GI Physiology: breath test kits

**2. How many H. Pylori tests are performed in a typical month?**

Endoscopy service: Purchasing history suggests we order roughly 50-100 a month but this is largely due to how the product works rather than actual use - each box contains test slides and a bottle of fluid that are supposed to be used together so if you misplace the fluid then any remaining test slides from the box are then useless and you have to open a new box.

South Bristol Community Hospital Day Case and Endoscopy Unit place an order every 2 months usually for 1 box each time.

GI Physiology INFAI 13C Urea Breath Test kits - 1 / 3 months average

**3. Who decides to purchase H. Pylori tests?**

Inventory is managed by purchasing assistant staff, ordered when stock replenishment is needed.

**4. Which H.Pylori test(s) do you use most?**

Endoscopy service: Urease test on biopsies taken at endoscopy.

GI Physiology: INFAI 13C Urea Breath Test

**5. Why do you use these tests most?**

Endoscopy service: This test gives results in five minutes whereas some other tests take longer (30 mins etc.), efficient, able to provide the result at the end of the procedure that day.  
GI Physiology: Ease of use, Economical, good specificity and sensitivity

**6. Where in the hospital is the test usually done, and by whom?**

Endoscopy service: Endoscopist in the Endoscopy room on the Queens Day Unit, Bristol Royal Infirmary, or South Bristol Community Hospital Day Case and Endoscopy Unit.  
GI Physiology: Queen's Day Unit, Bristol Royal Infirmary: GI Physiology Department, Clinical Support Worker supervised by a Clinical Gastrointestinal Physiologist or Clinical Scientist in GI Physiology.

**7. What medication do you use to treat H. Pylori? Please give drug name and brand.**

Triple therapy - Amoxicillin and clarithromycin and omeprazole

**8. What is the typical cost per test? Please give an estimate for unbranded or laboratory own tests.**

Endoscopy service: Endoscopy biopsy test kits - £116.40 (£97 + VAT) for a box of 50 tests - roughly £2.30 for test consumables - not sure what costing you would attribute to clinical staff's time, any lab time etc. The kit contents 50 test plates and 1 Reagent 6.5ml. It costs £1.94 per test.

GI Physiology: breath tests £26.04 per test, we buy in bulk to reduce the cost per kit. This does not include standard NHS appointment time costs.

**9. Do you use a Urease test for H. Pylori? If not, what type of test do you use? Eg breath test, culture, etc.**

Yes

**10. If you use a Urease test for H. Pylori, what type of Urease H. Pylori test do you use? Please give drug name and brand**

Helicobacter pylori ULTRA-FAST UFT300 Quick Test (BIOHIT) - Product code 602019PLA.

This concludes our response. We trust that you find this helpful, but please do not hesitate to contact us directly if we can be of any further assistance.

If, after that, you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be addressed to:

Data Protection Officer  
University Hospitals Bristol and Weston NHS Foundation Trust  
Trust Headquarters  
Marlborough Street  
Bristol  
BS1 3NU

Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF

### Publication

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To view the Freedom of Information Act in full please click [here](#).

Yours sincerely

**Freedom of Information Team**  
**University Hospitals Bristol and Weston NHS Foundation Trust**