

**Freedom of Information Request**

**Ref: 24-029**

24 January 2024

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. 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 antiseptics applicator (b) licensed skin disinfection wipe (c) non licensed wipe (d) other?**

Clinell wipe, which has 70% alcohol 2 % chlorhexidine

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

30 seconds – this would involve a cross action, up and down and across the area required, and repeated for 30 seconds, then allowed to dry which can also take 30 seconds.

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

Anticipated this is around 30 seconds until visually dry.

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

3.6%

**5. 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?**

(b) All positive blood cultures are discussed between the clinical team and microbiology. This includes those which are felt likely to be due to skin flora contamination.

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

Please note that this letter and the information included/attached will be published on our website as part of the Trust's Freedom of Information Publication Log. This is because information disclosed in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act is disclosed to the public, not just to the individual making the request. We will remove any personal information (such as your name, email and so on) from any information we make public to protect your personal information.

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**