

**Freedom of Information Request**

**Ref: 24-927**

18 December 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 hold some of the information you are requesting

**I would be greatly appreciative if you could provide the following information:**

**1. Number of blood cultures taken from patients in intensive care units in your Trust that grew coagulase-negative staphylococci (including coagulase-negative staphylococci that were identified to species level) from January 2023 to December 2024.**

We do not hold this information. Please contact North Bristol NHS Trust at [foi@nbt.nhs.uk](mailto:foi@nbt.nhs.uk) for further information.

**2. Please confirm whether in your Trust antimicrobial susceptibility testing data is routinely available for all coagulase-negative staphylococcal blood culture isolates or only for those deemed to be a cause of infection.**

We do direct sensitivities on all positive blood cultures, so an initial screen is done. More formal sensitivities are only done on those considered to be clinically significant.

**3. If antimicrobial susceptibility testing data is available for all coagulase-negative staphylococcal blood culture isolates, please indicate how far back in time and for what time period is the antimicrobial susceptibility testing data available.**

From Winpath "go live" in 2016.

**4. Please confirm the antimicrobial susceptibility testing method used in your Trust, e.g. disc diffusion, Vitek 2, and whether EUCAST or CLSI interpretative criteria are used.**  
Initial disc testing then Vitek2 using EUCAST. Gradient strips when required for vancomycin/teicoplanin.

**5. Please confirm whether coagulase-negative staphylococcal blood culture isolates in your Trust are routinely retained in the laboratory, e.g. on beads or on slopes.**

Clinically significant isolates are stored on beads in the -70°C for 3 years

**6. If yes to Question 5, indicate how far back in time and for what time period coagulase-negative staphylococcal blood culture isolates are available. Please indicate if only select isolates are available, for example, those considered to be a cause of bloodstream infection.**

Clinically significant isolates are stored on beads in the -70°C for 3 years

**7. Does your Trust use whole-body skin bacterial decontamination for all or selected patients?**

We only do targeted MRSA decolonisation and screen at pre-op for some cases, but not all and then individually prescribed decolonisation if required.

**8. With respect to whole-body skin decontamination, please confirm to which hospital patient groups this is administered, e.g. all admissions, only high-impact acute specialities, only MRSA-positive patient. Please provide the relevant Trust policy/guideline.**

Please see the attached document; however, we only do targeted MRSA decolonisation and screen at pre-op for some cases, but not all and then individually prescribed decolonisation if required, so the guidance does apply but it's the 'how to' for the ward staff for hospital inpatients.

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**