

Freedom of Information Request

Ref: 25-064

3 March 2025

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 not hold the information you are requesting

I am requesting information in relation to any protocols or guidelines that were in place in 2019 for a patient presenting with a spinal abscess, or any current guidelines.

Furthermore, are there any protocols or guidance in relation to microbiology policies in place at a similar time or currently?

We do not have specific protocols regarding spinal abscess. These would be held under Neurosurgery and this service is provided by North Bristol NHS Trust where adult patients with this condition would be triaged.

We have never had an antimicrobial guideline on the treatment of spinal abscesses. We do have information in our paediatric antimicrobial guideline for surgical prophylaxis for spinal surgery, but any patient presenting with an abscess would undoubtedly be treated as per their microbiology.

We do not have specific microbiology policies for the management of vertebral osteomyelitis.

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