

Freedom of Information Request

Ref: 25-152

19 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 hold the information you are requesting

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

This is recommended but unclear if this happens. New sepsis guidelines are being developed which suggests two sets are taken at the initial encounter, but this will likely cause issues with capacity on the automated incubators.

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

Approximately 20%. This is of course different when the patient has a central/ picc line as we will often get paired cultures (peripheral and line cultures).

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

No.

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)?

Yes

6. If yes, what is the average time?

February 2025 mean time was 3.3 hours.

7. Do you collect data on blood sample contamination?

Yes

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

The rates of contamination are. The loading times are discussed at the regional pathology network

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