



Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh Teaching Hospitals

NHS Foundation Trust

Trust Headquarters
Chief Nurse

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Ref: FOI/2025/10535

Date Received: 18th February 2025

Response Due: 18th March 2025

Date: 17th March 2025

Dear Sir/Madam

With reference to your request for information received on 18th February 2025, I can confirm in accordance with Section 1 (1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 that we do hold the information you have requested. A response to each part of your request is provided below.

In your request you asked:

In June 2022 NHS England published a document entitled 'Improving the blood culture pathway' which included a few recommendations regarding blood culture collection and data that should be collected and reported on at Board level. Can you please provide me with answers to the following questions:

- 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**
It is discussed on training and recommended however this is not yet regular practice.
- 3. If no, what percentage of patients do have two sets of blood cultures taken?**
This information is not routinely collected.
- 4. Do you measure the volume of blood taken each time a blood culture is taken (the recommended amount is 20ml per sample)? Y/N**
Yes, during training and included in the policy we advise 8-10mls per bottle for each sample taken. Bottles are marked as per policy prior to taking the sample to support with the volume.
- 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)? Y/N**
No, our blood culture samples are sent to Salford Royal Foundation Trust for processing.

6. If yes, what is the average time?

N/A.

7. Do you collect data on blood sample contamination? Y/N

Yes.

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

Yes.

If you are not entirely satisfied with this response, please do not hesitate to contact the Information Governance Department via the email address provided. If we do not hear from you within 40 days, we will assume that we have been able to accommodate your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Yours sincerely,



KEVIN PARKER-EVANS

Kevin Parker-Evans MBA, FCMJ, CMgr. RN Dip HE

Chief Nursing Officer & Director of Infection Prevention and Control

PLEASE NOTE:

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to make a complaint or request a review of our decision, you should write to: Information Governance Department, Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh NHS Foundation Trust, Suite 9, Buckingham Row, Brick Kiln Lane, Wigan, WN1 1XX.

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision at:

The Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire, SK9 5AF

Helpline number: 0303 123 111