

Date: 13/08/2018

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST FOI/014269 – bacterial and viral infections

Under the Freedom of Information Act, please could you provide answers to the following?

1. Do you routinely carry out point of care tests for bacterial and viral infections - NO
2. In what scenarios do you use point of care testing? -
3. What is the average length of time taken for results of point of care tests for bacterial and viral infections to be delivered? -

Response to Questions 2 & 3

Many wards and departments throughout the DGHNHS Foundation Trust perform Point of Care Tests (POCT) to diagnose, monitor and treat patients. The availability of accurate test results, some within seconds/ minutes can improve patient outcomes and reduce hospital admissions and offers a cost effective and improved healthcare.

The tests must be appropriate and are assessed by the relevant pathology department for its suitability before implementation.

This will include for example; what are the clinical benefits of the test? how is the test currently performed (if at all)? how will this improve patient care? who will fund the scheme? All POCT will work to the standards set out in ISO 15189 and ISO 22870.

4. Which bacterial or viral infections do you test for specifically? a) MRSA, b) C.diff, c) E.coli, d) CPE,e) any others? – As the other questions refer to POCT we have assumed this question is also about POCT, the answer is none