

Trust Headquarters  
 Russell's Hall Hospital  
 Dudley  
 West Midlands  
 DY1 2HQ

**Ref:** FOI-012024-000553

**Date:** 18<sup>th</sup> January 2024

**Address / Email:**

Dear

**Request Under Freedom of Information Act 2000**

Thank you for requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

**Request**

1. Prior to blood culture collection, what skin asepsis solution does your hospital/Trust/Health Board use in the skin preparation/ cleaning process - (a) licensed skin antiseptic applicator (b) licensed skin disinfection wipe (c) non licensed wipe (d) other?
2. How long do you clean the patient's skin for and what technique is used?
3. How long does your organisation allow the patients skin to dry before blood culture collection?
4. Do you know the percentage of contamination rate of blood cultures in your organisation?
5. What is the management process following a confirmed blood sample contamination. Is it escalation to (a) infection control team (b) microbiology (c) education and development (d) other, please specify or (e) no process?

**Response**

<p>1. Prior to blood culture collection, what skin asepsis solution does your hospital/Trust/Health Board use in the skin preparation/ cleaning process - (a) licensed skin antiseptic applicator (b) licensed skin disinfection wipe (c) non licensed wipe (d) other?</p>	<p>(a) licensed skin antiseptic applicator (ChloroPrep® One-Step 1.5ml Frepp®)</p>
<p>2. How long do you clean the patient's skin for and what technique is used?</p>	<p>The patient's skin is cleaned for 30 seconds utilising a hashtag technique.</p>
<p>3. How long does your organisation allow the patients skin to dry before blood culture collection?</p>	<p>The patient skin is left to dry for 30 seconds before blood culture collection.</p>
<p>4. Do you know the percentage of contamination rate of blood cultures in your organisation?</p>	<p>We are unable to answer this as we do not hold the information you have requested in a reportable format.</p>

	<b>When information is not in a reportable format</b> <i>The ICO guidance clearly states “FOIA only applies to information that a public authority already holds in recorded form at the time of a request. If you don’t hold a particular piece of information that someone has asked for, you don’t have to create it”.</i>
5. What is the management process following a confirmed blood sample contamination. Is it escalation to (a) infection control team (b) microbiology (c) education and development (d) other, please specify or (e) no process?	(e) no process

If you are dissatisfied with our response, you have the right to appeal in line with guidance from the Information Commissioner. In the first instance you may contact the Information Governance Manager of the Trust.

Information Governance Manager  
Trust Headquarters  
Russell’s Hall Hospital  
Dudley  
West Midlands  
DY1 2HQ  
Email: [dgft.dpo@nhs.net](mailto:dgft.dpo@nhs.net)

Should you disagree with the contents of our response to your appeal, you have the right to appeal to the Information Commissioners Office at.

Information Commissioners Office  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire  
SK9 5AF  
Tel: 0303 123 1113  
[www.ico.org.uk](http://www.ico.org.uk)

If you require further clarification, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely

**Freedom of Information Team  
The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust**