

Blood Culture

Reference Number: RDF1485-23

Date of Response: 30/05/23

Further to your Freedom of Information Act request, please find the Trust's response(s) below:

Please be aware that the Royal Devon University Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust (Royal Devon) has existed since 1st April 2022 following the integration of the Northern Devon Healthcare NHS Trust (known as Northern Services) and the Royal Devon and Exeter NHS Foundation Trust (known as Eastern Services).

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, please could your Trust provide the following information.

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*

Answer: Yes. The insertion site should be cleaned as per the Trust Venepuncture Policy. Cleanse the skin using a 2% chlorhexidine and 70% alcohol wipe for a minimum of 30 seconds. Allow to air dry for 30 seconds prior to venepuncture.
- 2. Do you take two sets of blood cultures each time as recommended in the guidance? Y/N*

Answer: UK SMI S12 states take 40mL in most cases of suspected bacteraemia. We recommend 2 sets of Blood cultures in adults.
- 3. If no, what percentage of patients do have two sets of blood cultures taken?*

Answer: Not applicable.
- 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*

Answer: No. We have audited this (December 2022) and are planning further actions.
- 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*

Answer: Yes.

a. *If yes, what is the average time?*

Answer: 89% incubated within 4hours.

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

Answer: Yes, we audit this once per year for 1 month.

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

Answer: No.