

## Neonatal Sepsis / Meningitis

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Reference Number: F4881  
Date of Response: 26/10/2022

Further to your Freedom of Information Act request, please find the Trust's response, in **blue bold text** below:

### **Royal Devon's Eastern FOI Office Response**

**Is your trust involved in the medical care of infants in the first 72 hours of life? **Yes.****

If no please answer only the above question and respond to this request

**If yes, I would be grateful if you could also answer the following:**

1. Do you have a guideline for the investigation and treatment of early onset infection/sepsis in neonates (names will vary)? **Yes.**
2. Does your guideline use NICE or Kaiser Permanente criteria for assessment of infants at risk of early onset neonatal sepsis?

**The Trust uses Kaiser Permanente criteria for assessment.**

3. Within your early onset neonatal sepsis guideline what are the indications for lumbar puncture?

**The Trust sepsis guideline states: -**

**5.2 Lumbar Puncture (LP) This should be done immediately if there is strong clinical suspicion of infection with or without clinical signs of meningitis and it is safe to do so. If LP will delay giving antibiotics by 1 hour or more then perform LP as soon as possible after starting antibiotics. If LP not done at presentation consider if: • Blood culture positive • Unsatisfactory response to antibiotic treatment • Clinical concern of possible meningitis • A raised CRP is an indication to consider an LP taking into account the above factors A slightly raised CRP is not an indication on its own to do an LP in a well-baby being treated because of risk factors. If the CRP is raised and an LP is not done document in the notes that a LP was considered and the reasons for not doing one.**

4. How many lumbar punctures has your trust carried out in infants under 72 hours of age in the last 12 months?

**A total 95 patients under 72 hours of age, have had lumbar punctures in the last 12 months.**

5. How many of these had positive CSF cultures (not including bacterial PCR)?

**<5. In accordance with section 40 (2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, we are unable to provide figures where the number of patients is less than or equal to five and could risk the identification of those patients and breach Caldicott principles.**

6. How many infants under 72 hours of age were diagnosed with meningitis in the last 12 months in your trust? **0**
7. How many infants between 72 hours of age and 7 days of age were diagnosed with meningitis in your trust? **0**