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Request for Information Reference: 01.24.32

FOI Direct line: 01325 743700
Email: cdda-tr.cddftfoi@nhs.net

Email only

6th February 2024

Dear

Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Request for Information

Thank you for submitting a request for information which we received on 10th January 2024 in relation to County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust (the Trust). Your request has been processed under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and I am now able to provide you with a response.

Your request was in relation to Blood Contamination and I am providing the following information in response to your specific questions:

Could you provide the following information?

- 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 antiseptis applicator (b) licensed skin disinfection wipe (c) non licensed wipe (d) other?**

a) Licensed skin antiseptis applicator

- 2. How long do you clean the patient's skin for and what technique is used?**

Gently but firmly clean patient's skin with Chloraprep 1.5mls (2% chlorhexidine in 70% alcohol solution)

Allow to air dry for 30 seconds to completely remove skin bacteria.

Do NOT re-palpate. If the patient has intolerance to chlorhexidine, a povidone iodine solution should be used instead.

3. How long does your organisation allow the patients skin to dry before blood culture collection?

Allow to air dry for 30 seconds to completely

4. Do you know the percentage of contamination rate of blood cultures in your organisation?

Suspected contamination – 1.8%

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

In line with the Information Commissioner's directive on the disclosure of information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 your request will form part of our disclosure log on the Trust's website. However please be assured that we anonymise all responses prior to adding them to the disclosure log.

I hope that this response has provided you with the information you had requested. If you have any queries or wish to discuss the information supplied, please do not hesitate to contact me by telephone or in writing. If however, you are dissatisfied with the way in which your request has been handled and would like an internal review, you will need to contact me in writing at the above address or via cdda-tr.cddftfoi@nhs.

If you remain dissatisfied with our response following an internal review you have the right to appeal to The Information Commissioner at Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. More information is available on their website; www.ico.gov.uk.

Yours sincerely

Corporate Records and Freedom of Information Facilitator