

Ref. No: 1557
Date: 18th February 2025
Subject: Blood Culture Pathway

REQUEST RESPONSE

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?**

Yes

- 2. Do you take two sets of blood cultures each time as recommended in the guidance?**

No

- 3. If no, what percentage of patients do have two sets of blood cultures taken?**

Approximately 12%

- 4. Do you measure the volume of blood taken each time a blood culture is taken (the recommended amount is 20ml per sample)?**

Yes

- 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)?**

Yes

- 6. If yes, what is the average time?**

1.9 hours

- 7. Do you collect data on blood sample contamination?**

Yes

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

Yes