

Ref. No: 0820
Date: 27/03/24
Subject: Blood Cultures

REQUEST

1. Do you have documented procedures for the taking of blood cultures in adult patients from both a peripheral and a central venous access device? (And able to provide an electronic copy of this / these documents?)
2. Does your microbiology service have 2023 data relating to the % contamination rate of blood cultures from adult patients (This may be a month-by-month rate or an annualised rate)?
3. Does your microbiology service have 2023 data relating to the % positivity rate of blood cultures from adult patients (This may be a month-by-month rate or an annualised rate)?
4. Does your microbiology service provide differential time to positivity analysis for blood cultures from adult patients (as a means of diagnosing central line-related bacteraemia)?
5. Does your microbiology service use automated blood culture analysers that have the facility to weigh and estimate the volume of blood with the culture bottles?
6. For the diagnosis of (Central) “line infections”, which diagnostic criteria is used:
 - a. CRBSI
 - b. CLABSI
 - c. Another diagnostic criterion (Please state, if possible)

RESPONSE

St Helens and Knowsley Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust and Southport and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust became a single legal entity known as Mersey and West Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust on 1st July 2023, as such parts of the response may be provided in two sections relating to the hospital sites of each of the legacy organisations.

1. Do you have documented procedures for the taking of blood cultures in adult patients from both a peripheral and a central venous access device? (And able to provide an electronic copy of this / these documents?)

Please see the attachment.

2. Does your microbiology service have 2023 data relating to the % contamination rate of blood cultures from adult patients (This may be a month-by-month rate or an annualised rate)?

5%

3. Does your microbiology service have 2023 data relating to the % positivity rate of blood cultures from adult patients (This may be a month-by-month rate or an annualised rate)?

14%

4. Does your microbiology service provide differential time to positivity analysis for blood cultures from adult patients (as a means of diagnosing central line-related bacteraemia)?

No

5. Does your microbiology service use automated blood culture analysers that have the facility to weigh and estimate the volume of blood with the culture bottles?

No

6. For the diagnosis of (Central) "line infections", which diagnostic criteria is used:

- a. CRBSI
- b. CLABSI
- c. Another diagnostic criterion (Please state, if possible)

CLABSI