

Ref. No: 0573  
Date: 10/01/24  
Subject: Blood Sample Contamination

## REQUEST

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 antiseptic applicator (b) licensed skin disinfection wipe (c) non licensed wipe (d) other?**
2. **How long do you clean the patient's skin for and what technique is used?**
3. **How long does your organisation allow the patients skin to dry before blood culture collection?**
4. **Do you know the percentage of contamination rate of blood cultures in your organisation?**
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?**

## 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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. **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 antiseptic applicator (b) licensed skin disinfection wipe (c) non licensed wipe (d) other?**

(a) licensed skin antiseptic applicator

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

30 seconds

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

Until completely dry, ANTT

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

5%

**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?**

(a) infection control team

(b) microbiology

(c) education and development