

Reference:	FOI.17522.25
Subject:	Blood culture pathways
Date of Request:	6 June 2026

Requested:

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? Y/N
2. Do you take two sets of blood cultures each time as recommended in the guidance? Y/N
3. If no, what percentage of patients do have two sets of blood cultures taken?
4. Do you measure the volume of blood taken each time a blood culture is taken (the recommended amount is 20ml per sample)? Y/N
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)? Y/N
6. If yes, what is the average time?
7. Do you collect data on blood sample contamination? Y/N
8. Is the data described above reported at Board level as recommended?

Response:

Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) has applied an exemption under Section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FoIA), as the information is accessible by another means. The UHB has answered a similar Freedom of Information request, FOI.11588.23 - blood culture collection, which is already within the public domain and is available on our disclosure log:

For ease of reference, please click on the attached link, which will take you directly to the UHB's disclosure log webpage:

[Disclosure Log - Hywel Dda University Health Board \(nhs.wales\)](#)

However, whilst operating in accordance with the Section 45 Freedom of Information Code of Practice, the UHB has a duty to provide advice and assistance. Therefore, the UHB provides a copy of its clinical policy "OBTAINING BLOOD CULTURE SAMPLES POLICY" at Attachment 1.