

FOI 7492:

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST: BLOOD CULTURES

1. Please table the hospitals or other acute sites currently submitting blood cultures and for each site-

i) Are blood cultures incubated and/or processed on site or sent to a microbiology laboratory off site?

ii) If incubated or processed off site, what is the distance in miles between the site and the offsite laboratory?

iii) How many blood culture sets were submitted from each site in 2022/23?

iv) Number of bed days for all patients per site

	Name of acute site	Blood incubated on-site? Y/N	Blood Processed on site? Y/N	Distance to off-site lab in miles	No. cultures submitted 2022/2023 Adults and paed	Number of bed days 2022/23
1.	Salisbury District Hospital	Yes	Yes	N/A	Jan 2022-December 2022= 5931	177,103
2.						
3.						
4.						

Comments:

2. Does the Trust follow the UK Standards for Microbiology Investigations (SMI S12) in relation to Blood Cultures? **YES**

3. Do you undertake formal compliance audits of the recommended pre-analytical standard for blood cultures of a four hour TAT from collection to incubation?

YES- currently on an ad hoc basis, not routinely scheduled. We are working with the blood culture analyser provider and out LIMS provider simplify the process to allow for more routine gather of information.

4. What percentage of blood culture sets achieved this standard in the year 2022/23 at each site.

See table below for information on the months data that we have.

If full compliance with the pre analytical standard cannot be met, are clinicians made aware of the risk via a statement in the report on specimens which encountered delay?

No, if we saw a trend of location of where there was a delay, we would contact the department and investigate our processes. No individual reports are sent out.

	Name of site	% achieving 4-hr TAT	Delayed incubation reported Y/N
1.	Salisbury district Hospital	September 2022- 74% October 2022- 52%	No
2.			
3.			
4.			

Comments:

5. What is the population served by the Trust? **225,000**

6. What was the total expenditure on laboratory services (directorate of pathology) as a percentage of total Trust expenditure in the year 2022/23? **3.5%**

7. Please append a copy of your blood culture protocol or policy or other document which informs clinical staff when they should take a blood culture.

Please see PDF