

Reference Number: FOI202324/452
From: Commercial
Date: 10 January 2024
Subject: Blood contamination

- Q1 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?
- A1 Licensed skin antiseptic applicator or licensed skin disinfection wipe.
- Q2 How long do you clean the patient's skin for and what technique is used?
- A2 30 seconds, gentle back and forth motions to ensure full coverage.
- Q3 How long does your organisation allow the patients skin to dry before blood culture collection?
- A3 Until the skin looks matte or until dry.
- Q4 Do you know the percentage of contamination rate of blood cultures in your organisation?
- A4 Information not held – the Trust does not routinely collate or hold this information centrally as part of its management or performance data.
- Q5 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?
- A5 There is no process for the continuous monitoring and review of all blood cultures, however if a blood culture is noted to be contaminated as part of the post infection review process by the infection prevention team then this is escalated to the relevant clinical staff and education team.