



Ref: FOIA Reference 2024/25-534

Date: 26th February 2025

Email foi@uhnm.nhs.uk

Dear Sir/ Madam

I am writing to acknowledge receipt of your email dated 6th November 2024 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) Group B Strep prevention guidelines

Q1 To assist with responding to this FOI request, we would expect questions 1-9 and 13-14 to need input from the Midwifery/Obstetrics & Gynaecology department, while questions 10-12 will likely need input from the Microbiology department. Please let me know if any questions are unclear.

1. Please supply a copy of your guideline(s) relating to group B Strep during pregnancy, labour, and in newborn babies

2. Please provide the date when your guidelines relating to group B Strep during pregnancy, labour, and in newborn babies were last updated

3. Please provide the date when your guidelines relating to group B Strep during pregnancy, labour, and in newborn babies are due to be updated

4. Do you provide information materials about group B Strep to all pregnant women and people as a routine part of antenatal care? (Yes/No)

5. If you do not provide information materials about group B Strep to all pregnant women and people, do you provide them to any of the following groups during antenatal care? (Select all that apply) those who have previously had a baby who developed GBS infection those where GBS was detected before the current pregnancy (swab or urine) those where GBS was detected during the current pregnancy (swab or urine) those who are in preterm labour those with preterm rupture of membranes those with prolonged rupture of membranes those who request information

6. Please supply copies of the information materials (physical and/or digital) which are given to pregnant women and people about GBS as a routine part of antenatal care.

7. Do you offer testing specifically for maternal GBS carriage to any pregnant women or people in either late pregnancy or in labour? [By this we mean a test specifically

intended to detect GBS carriage, rather than a general test for the presence of any microorganisms of interest] (Yes/No)

8. If you offer testing specifically for maternal GBS carriage in late pregnancy or in labour, do you offer: (Select all that apply) Testing late in pregnancy Testing in labour

9. Do you offer GBS-specific testing for maternal GBS carriage to: (Select all that apply) All pregnant women and people Those who previously had a baby who developed GBS infection Those where GBS was detected in a previous pregnancy Those who request it Those in other circumstances (for example, for reasons such as PPROM or vaginal discharge) Other (please state)

10. If you undertake GBS-specific testing for maternal GBS carriage, which of the following specimen types do you collect (Select all that apply):

- Vaginal Swab alone
- Rectal Swab alone
- Both Vaginal and Rectal Swab(s)
- Other (please state)

11. If you undertake GBS-specific testing for maternal GBS carriage, which detection method is used by the Microbiology laboratory? (Select all that apply) Direct culture on non-selective, non-chromogenic media Direct culture on selective &/or indicator media Broth enrichment with subculture onto non-selective, non-chromogenic media Broth enrichment with subculture onto selective &/or chromogenic media PCR (for example, Cepheid GeneXpert) Other (Please state)

12. Does your lab offer any of the following (Select all that apply):

Enriched Culture Medium (ECM) as part of the routine lab test repertoire ECM offered, with samples referred to another lab PCR as part of the routine lab test repertoire PCR offered, with samples referred to another lab Other (please state)

13. Do you provide training on group B Strep in labour to (Select all that apply) Midwifery staff Obstetric staff Neonatal staff Laboratory staff Others (please state)

14. Do you use the Kaiser Permanente Neonatal Early-Onset Sepsis Calculator? (Yes/No)

14a. If yes to Q14, is there a prospective audit in place? (Yes/No) 14b. If yes to Q14, from what gestation do you use the calculator? Please specify weeks and days e.g. 34+0

15. Do you use digital platforms to analyse your Trust/Board's rates of GBS infection [invasive neonatal or maternal infections - not non-invasive infections, or infections that are not neonatal/pregnancy-related] (Yes/No)

16. If you use digital platforms to analyse your Trust/Board's rates of GBS infection as defined in Q15, do you use this for: (Select all that apply) Early-onset GBS infection Late-onset GBS infection Maternal GBS infection Others (please state)

17. Has your Trust adopted the NHS Complaint Standards as set out by the Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman?

Please refer to the attached spread sheet and attachment.

Please note we are unable to answer Question 1. The Trust considers your request to be exempt from disclosure in accordance with section 43(2) of the Freedom of Information Act as to release this information would, or would be likely to, prejudice the commercial interests of the Trust. The Trust has applied the public interest test to this request and feels that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosure. (Partners pay an annual subscription of £5250).

*Please note that any individuals identified do not give consent for their personal data to be processed for the purposes of direct marketing.

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An anonymised copy of this request can be found on the Trust's disclosure log, please note that all requests can be found at the following link: <http://www.uhnm.nhs.uk/aboutus/Statutory-Policies-and-Procedures/Pages/Freedom-of-Information-Disclosure-Log.aspx>

This letter confirms the completion of this request. A log of this request and a copy of this letter will be held by the Trust.

If you have any queries related to the response provided please in the first instance contact my office.

Should you have a complaint about the response or the handling of your request, please also contact my office to request a review of this. If having exhausted the Trust's FOIA complaints process you are still not satisfied, you are entitled to approach the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) and request an assessment of the manner in which the Trust has managed your request.

The Information Commissioner may be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF or via www.ico.org.uk.

Yours,





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