

Trust Headquarters
Russell's Hall Hospital
Dudley
West Midlands
DY1 2HQ

Ref: FOI-112024-0001230

Date: 30.12.2024

Address / Email:

Dear

Request Under Freedom of Information Act 2000

Thank you for requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Please see our response by or below each question

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 –*** Please see the attached. For a copy of the guideline please contact dgft.foi@nhs.net quoting this FOI reference number.
2. ***Please provide the date when your guidelines relating to group B Strep during pregnancy, labour, and in newborn babies were last updated –*** September 2023.
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 –*** September 2026.
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) –*** 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)***
 - a. ***those who have previously had a baby who developed GBS infection -*** No just verbal.
 - b. ***those where GBS was detected before the current pregnancy (swab or urine) -*** No just verbal.
 - c. ***those where GBS was detected during the current pregnancy (swab or urine) -*** Yes written.
 - d. ***those who are in preterm labour -*** No.
 - e. ***those with preterm rupture of membranes -*** No.
 - f. ***those with prolonged rupture of membranes -*** Not unless diagnosed.
 - g. ***those who request information –*** Yes.
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. –*** None as routine.
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] -*** No.

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

- a. Testing late in pregnancy**
- b. Testing in labour**

Non applicable.

9. Do you offer GBS-specific testing for maternal GBS carriage to: (Select all that apply)

- a. All pregnant women and people - Yes.**
- b. Those who previously had a baby who developed GBS infection - Yes.**
- c. Those where GBS was detected in a previous pregnancy - Yes.**
- d. Those who request it - Yes.**
- e. Those in other circumstances (for example, for reasons such as PPROM or vaginal discharge) Other (please state) - Yes.**

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

- a. Vaginal Swab alone - Yes.**
- b. Rectal Swab alone - No.**
- c. Both Vaginal and Rectal Swab(s) - No.**
- d. Other (please state) - Yes MSU**

11. If you undertake GBS-specific testing for maternal GBS carriage, which detection method is used by the Microbiology laboratory? (Select all that apply)

- a. Direct culture on non-selective,**
- b. non-chromogenic media Direct culture on selective &/or indicator media Broth enrichment with subculture onto non-selective,**
- c. non-chromogenic media Broth enrichment with subculture onto selective &/or chromogenic media PCR (for example, Cepheid GeneXpert) Other (Please state)**

Question 11 will need to be answered by Pathology Services

The Trust is now part of The Black Country Pathology Services. The Black Country Pathology Services (BCPS) Partnership will integrate pathology services at The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust (RWT), with Sandwell West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust (SWBH), Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust (DGH) and Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust (WHT). The Black Country Pathology Service will be hosted by RWT on behalf of the Partnership. Can you please forward your request to The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust. rwht.FOI@nhs.net

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

- a. 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**
- b. repertoire PCR offered, with samples referred to another lab Other (please state)**

Question 12 will need to be answered by Pathology Services

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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) - No.

14. Do you use the Kaiser Permanente Neonatal Early-Onset Sepsis Calculator? - Yes.

- a. If yes to Q14, is there a prospective audit in place? - Yes.**
- b. If yes to Q14, from what gestation do you use the calculator? Please specify weeks and days - 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) – 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)

- a. Early-onset GBS infection**
- b. Late-onset GBS infection**
- c. Maternal GBS infection**
- d. Others (please state)**

Non applicable.

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

If you are dissatisfied with our response, you have the right to appeal in line with guidance from the Information Commissioner. In the first instance you may contact the Information Governance Manager of the Trust.

Information Governance Manager
Trust Headquarters
Russell's Hall Hospital
Dudley
West Midlands
DY1 2HQ
Email: dgft.dpo@nhs.net

Should you disagree with the contents of our response to your appeal, you have the right to appeal to the Information Commissioners Office at.

Information Commissioners Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF
Tel: 0303 123 1113
www.ico.org.uk

If you require further clarification, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely

**Freedom of Information Team
The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust**