



Kent and Medway

NHS and Social Care Partnership Trust

Information Governance & Records Management Department

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Dear [REDACTED]

Request for Information

I write further to your request FOI ID 42245 under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 regarding:-

Joint infection services

Your request is set out below:

Questions for clinical team(s):

1. In 2022/2023 (or for the last recorded year with data available), in your Trust/Health Board, how many of the following did you record?
 - a) Paediatric patients with suspected septic arthritis in native joints
 - b) Paediatric patients with suspected prosthetic joint infection (PJI)
 - c) Adult patients with suspected septic arthritis in native joints
 - d) Adult patients with suspected prosthetic joint infection (PJI)
2. Does your Trust/Health Board follow or have any locally developed/adapted guidelines for the diagnosis and treatment of septic arthritis in native joints and prosthetic joint infections in both adults and paediatric patients?
 - a) If yes, please state which guidelines have been adapted and please provide a copy of your local guidelines
3. When investigating suspected septic arthritis in native joints in both paediatric and adult patients, is a synovial fluid sample collected before or after antibiotics are administered and commenced?
 - a) Is joint aspirate collected in ED/triage, Assessment unit, inpatient ward, or theatre?
 - b) Who typically performs the procedure and collects the sample? (Please specify job role)
 - c) Does the above differ for suspected prosthetic joint infections? If yes, please clarify how this differs
4. What clinician would typically manage paediatric patients with suspected septic arthritis in native joints? (please select one or multiple)
 - I. Paediatric Consultant

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Trust Chair – Dr Jackie Craissati
Chief Executive – Helen Greatorex

- II. Orthopaedic Consultant
- III. Infectious Diseases Consultant
- IV. Other (please specify)

5. Are patients discharged before culture results from synovial fluid aspirate are received? If yes, what requirements need to be met before patients are discharged?

Questions for lab/diagnostic team(s):

6. For adult and paediatric patients with suspected septic arthritis of native joints, what are the mean turnaround times (in hours, or if more appropriate, working days) for results on the following tests from receipt of specimen: (please provide an answer for each result)
 - a) Gram Stain
 - b) Culture
 - c) Blood culture
 - d) White blood cell count
7. Does your Trust/Health Board conduct PCR testing of bacteria from synovial fluid of patients who have suspected septic arthritis of native joints?

If yes:

 - a) Is this testing conducted on site?
 - b) At what point is testing requested – when the culture is negative or on request?
 - c) How long is the average turnaround time for results from receipt of specimen?
 - d) What organisms are routinely tested for?
8. Does your Trust/Health Board conduct 16S PCR testing of bacteria from synovial fluid of patients who have suspected septic arthritis of native joints?

If yes:

 - a) Is this testing conducted on site?
 - b) At what point is testing requested – when the culture is negative or on request?
 - c) How long is the average turnaround time for results from receipt of specimen?
 - d) What organisms are routinely tested for?

Joint question – input from both clinician and lab/diagnostic team:

9. For joint infections, in your Trust/Health Board, please confirm the following:
 - a) Which roles or stakeholders are involved in the design of diagnostic pathways and introducing change/pathway improvement?
 - b) Which team(s) hold the budget for investing and implementing in new technologies across the pathway (e.g. rapid diagnostic testing)?

Please be advised that as a mental health organisation we do not hold the information you have requested. We would suggest it is more likely that this information is held and managed by the acute hospital organisations. I have provided the below contact details for each organisation in our area for your information.

- **Dartford and Gravesham NHS Trust**
[Freedom of Information \(FOI\) :: Dartford and Gravesham NHS Trust \(dgt.nhs.uk\)](https://www.dgt.nhs.uk/freedom-of-information-foi)
- **Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust**
[Freedom of Information \(FOI\) - Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust \(mtw.nhs.uk\)](https://www.mtw.nhs.uk/freedom-of-information-foi)
- **Medway Foundation Trust**
[Freedom of Information \(FOI\) requests \(medway.nhs.uk\)](https://www.medway.nhs.uk/freedom-of-information-foi)

- **East Kent Hospital Foundation Trust**
[Freedom of Information \(FOI\) | East Kent Hospitals University NHS Foundation Trust \(ekhufn.nhs.uk\)](https://www.ekhuft.nhs.uk)

I confirm that the information above completes your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. I am also pleased to confirm that no charge will be made for this request.

If you have any questions or concerns or are unhappy with the response provided or the service you have received you can write to the Head of Information Governance at the address on top of this letter. If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision.

Yours Sincerely

On Behalf of
The Information Governance Department