

Information Governance

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21 February 2023

Our reference: FOI DA4607

I am responding to your request for information, received on 20 February 2023. This has been treated as a request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

I am now enclosing a response, which is attached to the end of this letter. Please do not hesitate to contact me on the contact details above if you have any further queries.

Yours sincerely,



Nimita Parmar
Information Rights Coordinator



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'what matters' to everyone, achieve a better quality
of life and continuously improve our services.
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Chief Executive: Paul Calaminus
Chair: Eileen Taylor

If you are dissatisfied with the Trust's response to your FOIA request then you should contact us and we will arrange for an internal review of this decision.

If you remain dissatisfied with the decision following our response to your complaint, you may write to the Information Commissioner for a decision under Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Tel: 0303 123 1113
Web: www.ico.org.uk

Please note that the data supplied is not allowed to be re-used and/or published without the explicit consent of East London NHS Foundation Trust. Please contact the signatory to request permission if this is your intention



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Request:

Question 1: Of the following, which guidelines does your Trust follow for the diagnosis and treatment of meningitis/encephalitis: (Please answer: Yes/No)

- **NICE Guidelines (CG102) - Bacterial meningitis in under 16s: recognition, diagnosis and management**
- **UK Joint Specialist Societies guideline on the diagnosis and management of acute meningitis and meningococcal sepsis in immunocompetent adults (published 2016)**
- **Association of British Neurologists and British Infection Association National Guidelines – Management of suspected viral encephalitis in adults (published 2011)**
- **Association of British Neurologists and British Paediatric Allergy, Immunology and Infection Group National Guidelines – Management of suspected viral encephalitis in children (published 2011)**

Answer: The Trust has reviewed question 1 of your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOI) 2000.

Section 1(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 states:

*Any person making a request for information to a public authority is entitled —
(a) to be informed in writing by the public authority whether it holds information of the description specified in the request, and
(b) if that is the case, to have that information communicated to them.*

East London NHS Foundation Trust is primarily a Mental Health and Community Health Trust and as such does not provide the services described in this request. We believe your request is for an Acute Trust and we are therefore unable to provide a response.

Question 2: Does your Trust have any locally developed/adapted guidelines for the diagnosis and treatment of meningitis/encephalitis in both adults and paediatric patients?

If yes, please state which guidelines have been adapted and please provide a copy of your local guidelines.

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Question 3: What are the top 3 roles in your Trust, in order of involvement, that are responsible for the development of local pathways and guidelines for meningitis/encephalitis?

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Question 4: Does your Trust typically take samples of blood cultures from patients with suspected meningitis/encephalitis within: (Please select answer)

- 1 hour of admission?
- 2-4 hours of admission?
- 4-8 hours of admission?
- 8> hours of admission?

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**Question 5: Does your Trust consistently carry out lumbar punctures in patients with no contradictions who have suspected meningitis/encephalitis? (Yes/No)
If yes, who performs the lumbar puncture? (Please specify job role)**

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Question 6: Does your Trust consistently take cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) samples via lumbar puncture from patients with suspected meningitis/encephalitis within: (Please select answer)

- 1 hour of admission?
- 1-2 hours of admission?
- 2-4 hours of admission?
- 4-8 hours of admission?
- 8-12 hours of admission?
- >12 hours of admission?

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Question 7: Does your Trust administer antibiotics to patients where appropriate prior to taking blood culture and CSF samples? (Yes/No)

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Question 8: Does your Trust consistently administer antibiotics to patients with suspected meningitis/encephalitis within: (Please select answer)

- 1 hours of admission?



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- 2-4 hours of admission?
- 4-8 hours of admission?
- 8> hours of admission?

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Question 9: Which of the following guidelines does your Trust follow for the microbiological investigation of meningitis/encephalitis: (Please select: Yes/No)

- UK Standards for Microbiology Investigations – Meningoencephalitis (published 2014)
- UK Standards for Microbiology Investigations – Investigation of Cerebrospinal Fluid (published 2017)

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Question 10: Does your Trust have any local adaptations or amendments to the two UK Standards for Microbiology Investigations listed in the above question? If yes, please provide a copy of your local amendments.

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Question 11: Following lumbar puncture on a patient with suspected meningitis/encephalitis, how long are the turnaround times from point of receiving specimen to result on the following tests: (Please select answer for each result)

- a) Cell count (<1 hour, 1-2 hours, 2-4 hours or >4 hours)
- b) Gram staining (<1 hour, 1-2 hours, 2-4 hours or >4 hours)
- c) Bacterial culture (<1 hour, 1-2 hours, 2-4 hours or >4 hours)
- d) PCR (<1 hour, 1-2 hours, 2-4 hours or >4 hours)

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Question 12: Where does your Trust process CSF samples?

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Question 13: Does your Trust perform PCR testing to test samples from patients with suspected meningitis/encephalitis? (Yes/No)

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Question 14: If PCR testing is carried out in your Trust, which bacterial and viral pathogens are tested for? (Please separate your answer by bacterial and viral pathogens).

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