

**Reference Number:** FOIAH2324/551  
**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** a. Skin asepsis applicator – The Trust uses the BD Chloraprep Applicators 2%, Chlorohexidine Gluconate / Isopropyl Alcohol.

**Q2** How long do you clean the patient's skin for and what technique is used?

**A2** The technique for decontaminating the patient's skin prior to obtaining blood culture is to clean for at least 30 seconds using a hash tag motion.

**Q3** How long does your organisation allow the patients skin to dry before blood culture collection?

**A3** Allow to dry for at least 30 seconds.

**Q4** Do you know the percentage of contamination rate of blood cultures in your organisation?

**A4** Contamination rate is 4.3%, this figure is from 2023.

**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** Escalation to the Microbiology and Infectious diseases team.