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**20<sup>th</sup> January 2025**

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[REDACTED]

Dear Sir/Madam

**Freedom of Information Act (FOI) 2000 - Request for Information Reference:** Group B  
Strep prevention guidelines in England

I am writing in response to your request for information under the FOI 2000.

I can confirm in accordance with Section 1 (1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 that we do hold some of the information you have requested. A response to each of your questions will be found below. Please accept our sincere apologies for the delay.

**Home, Community, Hospital.**

FOI Request / Question	Question Response	Is there an exemption?	Exemption	Exemption Details
1. Please supply a copy of your guideline(s) relating to group B Strep during pregnancy, labour, and in newborn babies, please include when it was last updated and when its due to be updated next.	Current live guideline - Currently being updated. Please see FOI 394 Q1			
2. Do you provide information materials about group B Strep to all pregnant women and people as a routine part of antenatal care? (Yes/No)	Yes Please see FOI 394 Q2			
3. 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?	Not Applicable			
4. 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.	Please see FOI 394 Q3 and FOI 394 Q2			
5. Do you offer testing specifically for maternal GBS carriage to any pregnant women or people in either late pregnancy or in labour?	No, we do not routinely test for GBS			
6. Do you offer GBS-specific testing for maternal GBS carriage to:	Those where GBS was detected in a previous pregnancy - tested in late pregnancy			
7. If you undertake GBS-specific testing for maternal GBS carriage, which of the following specimen types do you collect (Select all that apply):	Not Applicable			

8. If you undertake GBS-specific testing for maternal GBS carriage, which detection method is used by the Microbiology laboratory	Direct culture on non-selective.			
9. Does your lab offer any of the following (Select all that apply): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All pregnant women and people.</li> <li>Those who previously had a baby who developed GBS infection.</li> <li>Those where GBS was detected in a previous pregnancy.</li> <li>Those who request it.</li> <li>Those in other circumstances (for example, for reasons such as PPRM or vaginal discharge)</li> <li>Other (please state)</li> </ul>	Most of our media can be considered as ECM. Serology samples are sent as bloods for PCR. Isolates are sent on a non-enriched nutrient agar slope and specimens are sent using a selective swab (VTM). Occasionally samples are sent to a reference laboratory inside an RCM broth i.e. anaerobic isolates for culture and sensitivity.			
10. Do you provide training on group B Strep in labour to: Vaginal Swab alone Rectal Swab alone Both Vaginal and Rectal Swab(s) Other (please state)	No specific GBS training			
11. Do you use the Kaiser Permanente Neonatal Early-Onset Sepsis Calculator? (Yes/No)	No			
12. Do you use digital platforms to analyse your Trust/Board's rates of GBS infection [invasive neonatal or maternal infections - not non-invasive]	No			

infections, or infections that are not neonatal/pregnancy-related] (Yes/No)				
13. Has your Trust adopted the NHS Complaint Standards as set out by the Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman?	Yes			

I trust this information answers your request. Should you have any further enquiries or queries about this response please do not hesitate to contact me. However, if you are unhappy with the way in which your request has been handled, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be addressed to: Sally Brook Shanahan, Director of Corporate Affairs, King's Mill Hospital, Mansfield Road, Sutton in Ashfield, Nottinghamshire, NG17 4JL or email [sally.brookshanahan@nhs.net](mailto:sally.brookshanahan@nhs.net).

If you are dissatisfied with the outcome of the internal review, you can apply to the Information Commissioner's Office, who will consider whether we have complied with our obligations under the Act and can require us to remedy any problems. Generally, the Information Commissioner's Office cannot decide unless you have exhausted the internal review procedure. You can find out more about how to do this, and about the Act in general, on the Information Commissioner's Office website at: <https://ico.org.uk/your-data-matters/official-information/>.

Complaints to the Information Commissioner's Office should be sent to FOI/EIR Complaints Resolution, Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. Telephone 0303 1231113, email [casework@ico.org.uk](mailto:casework@ico.org.uk).

If you would like this letter or information in an alternative format, for example large print or easy read, or if you need help with communicating with us, for example because you use British Sign Language, please let us know. You can call us on 01623 672232 or email [sfh-tr.foi.requests@nhs.net](mailto:sfh-tr.foi.requests@nhs.net).

Yours faithfully

#### Information Governance Team

All information we have provided is subject to the provisions of the Re-use of Public Sector Information Regulations 2015. Accordingly, if the information has been made available for re-use under the [Open Government Licence](#) (OGL) a request to re-use is not required, but the licence conditions must be met. You must not re-use any previously unreleased information without having the consent from Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust. Should you wish to re-use previously unreleased information then you must make your request in writing. All requests for re-use will be responded to within 20 working days of receipt.