



FOI 2020

Date 20/03/2023

Dear Requester,

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request. Please note, this is a cross-site response for Bedford site and Luton site.

You asked:

- 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 – Yes

UK Joint Specialist Societies guideline on the diagnosis and management of acute meningitis and meningococcal sepsis in immunocompetent adults (published 2016) – Yes

Association of British Neurologists and British Infection Association National Guidelines – Management of suspected viral encephalitis in adults (published 2011) – Yes

Association of British Neurologists and British Paediatric Allergy, Immunology and Infection Group National Guidelines – Management of suspected viral encephalitis in children (published 2011) – Yes

- 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.**

Yes

- 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?**

Consultant microbiologist

Consultant paediatrician with interest

Clinical director

- 4. Does your Trust typically take samples of blood cultures from patients with suspected meningitis/encephalitis within:**

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

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



Yes, performed by clinicians with competency.

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

- 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?

Varied timings dependant on clinical condition of patient. Case by case decision

7. Does your Trust administer antibiotics to patients where appropriate prior to taking blood culture and CSF samples?

Blood culture taken prior to antibiotics. LP decision case-by-case decision.

8. Does your Trust consistently administer antibiotics to patients with suspected meningitis/encephalitis within:

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

9. Which of the following guidelines does your Trust follow for the microbiological investigation of meningitis/encephalitis:

UK Standards for Microbiology Investigations – Meningoencephalitis (published 2014)

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

We follow all relevant UKHSA SMI including both of the above.

10. Does your Trust have any local adaptations or amendments to the two UK Standards for Microbiology Investigations listed in the above question?

We have our own SOP – this is currently under review.

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

12. Where does your Trust process CSF samples?

Bedford Hospital

13. Does your Trust perform PCR testing to test samples from patients with suspected meningitis/encephalitis?

Yes



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)

Bacteria:

Escherichia coli K1
Haemophilus influenzae
Listeria monocytogenes
Neisseria meningitides
Streptococcus agalactiae
Streptococcus pneumoniae

Virus:

Cytomegalovirus
Enterovirus
Herpes simplex virus 1
Herpes simplex virus 2
Human herpesvirus 6
Human parechovirus
Varicella zoster virus

Yeast:

Cryptococcus neoformans/gatti

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Yours sincerely,

FOI Officer

Bedfordshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust