

FOI 2760

6<sup>th</sup> December 2024

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 – INFORMATION REQUEST**

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**Q1. Please supply a copy of your guideline(s) relating to group B Strep during pregnancy, labour, and in newborn babies.**

**Response:**

Please see Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for management of group B Strep (attachment 1) and Group B Streptococcus in pregnancy guidelines (attachment 2)

**Q2. Please provide the date when your guidelines relating to group B Strep during pregnancy, labour, and in newborn babies were last updated**

**Response:**

2019 and 2021

**Q3. Please provide the date when your guidelines relating to group B Strep during pregnancy, labour, and in newborn babies are due to be updated**

**Response:**

2022 and 2023

**Q4. Do you provide information materials about group B Strep to all pregnant women and people as a routine part of antenatal care?**

**Response:**

No but all women are advised to read their pregnancy book which contains information regarding Group B Strep. <https://www.publichealth.hscni.net/sites/default/files/2024-04/Pregnancy Book 2024.pdf>

**Q5. 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? (Select all that apply)**

**a.those who have previously had a baby who developed GBS infection**

**Response:**

Yes

**b. Those where GBS was detected before the current pregnancy (swab or urine)**

**Response:**

Yes if related to previous pregnancy between 35-37 weeks otherwise no.

**c. Those where GBS was detected during the current pregnancy (swab or urine)**

**Response:**

Yes

**d. Those who are in preterm labour**

**Response:**

No

**e. Those with preterm rupture of membranes**

**Response:**

No

**f. Those with prolonged rupture of membranes**

**Response:**

No

**g. Those who request information**

**Response:**

Yes advised to refer to pregnancy book.

**Q6. 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.**

**Response:**

Please see attached Group B Support (RCOG) attachment 3.

**Q7. Do you offer testing specifically for maternal GBS carriage to any pregnant women or people in either late pregnancy or in labour? [By this we mean a test specifically intended to detect GBS carriage, rather than a general test for the presence of any microorganisms of interest]**

**Response:**

Offer to symptomatic women and yes we request screening for Group B strep.



**Q8. If you offer testing specifically for maternal GBS carriage in late pregnancy or in labour, do you offer: (Select all that apply) Testing late in pregnancy Testing in labour**

**Response:**

For previous known GBS in pregnancy screening offered between 35-37 weeks.

**Q9. Do you offer GBS-specific testing for maternal GBS carriage to: (Select all that apply)**

**a. All pregnant women and people**

**Response:**

No

**b. Those who previously had a baby who developed GBS infection**

**Response:**

Yes

**c. Those where GBS was detected in a previous pregnancy**

**Response:**

Yes

**d. Those who request it**

**Response:**

Yes

**e. Those in other circumstances (for example, for reasons such as PPROM or vaginal discharge) Other (please state)**  
Vaginal discharge

**Response:**

Yes

**PPROM**

**Response:**

No

**Q10. If you undertake GBS-specific testing for maternal GBS carriage, which of the following specimen types do you collect (Select all that apply):**

**Vaginal Swab alone**

**Rectal Swab alone**

**Both Vaginal and Rectal Swab(s)**

**Other (please state)**

**Response:**

Both Vaginal and Rectal Swab(s)

**Q11. If you undertake GBS-specific testing for maternal GBS carriage, which detection method is used by the Microbiology laboratory? (Select all that apply)**

**Direct culture on non-selective, non-chromogenic media Direct culture on selective &/or indicator media Broth enrichment with subculture onto non-selective, non-chromogenic media Broth enrichment with subculture onto selective &/or chromogenic media PCR (for example, Cepheid GeneXpert) Other (Please state)**

**Response:**

Broth enrichment with subculture onto selective & chromogenic media.

**Q12. Does your lab offer any of the following (Select all that apply):**

**Enriched Culture Medium (ECM) as part of the routine lab test repertoire ECM offered, with samples referred to another lab PCR as part of the routine lab test repertoire PCR offered, with samples referred to another lab Other (please state)**

**Response:**

We offer GBS carriage screening, and process locally by the method detailed in questions 10&11. We don't offer PCR for GBS.

**Q13. Do you provide training on group B Strep in labour to (Select all that apply)**

**Midwifery staff Obstetric staff Neonatal staff Laboratory staff Others (please state)**

**Response:**

No

**Q14. Do you use the Kaiser Permanente Neonatal Early-Onset Sepsis Calculator?**

**Response:**

Yes it is used on postnatal ward which will decide on screening.

**Q14a. If yes to Q14, is there a prospective audit in place?**

**Response:**

Yes - ongoing from last year

**Q14b. If yes to Q14, from what gestation do you use the calculator? Please specify weeks and days e.g. 34+0**

**Response:**

Yes 34 +0 weeks and above

**15. Do you use digital platforms to analyse your Trust/Board's rates of GBS infection [invasive neonatal or maternal infections - not non-invasive infections, or infections that are not neonatal/pregnancy-related] (Yes/No)**

**Response:**

We have no digital platform for recording.

**16. If you use digital platforms to analyse your Trust/Board's rates of GBS infection as defined in Q15, do you use this for: (Select all that apply) Early-onset GBS infection Late-onset GBS infection Maternal GBS infection Others (please state)**

**Response:**

N/A

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