

Date: 19/09/2014

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 - Ref: FOI/011951

With reference to your FOI request in connection with 'Endocarditis caused by viridans streptococci' please see response below.

We are trying to ascertain the change in the numbers of cases of endocarditis secondary to viridans streptococci in the UK since the introduction of NICE clinical guideline 64.

Unfortunately, hospital clinical coding data does not allow us to specify endocarditis caused by viridans streptococci.

As a surrogate marker we are attempting to calculate the change in the number of patients with a positive blood culture for viridans streptococci since the 1st January 2000.

We would be grateful if you could provide a list of all blood cultures that have grown viridans streptococci since January 1st 2000.

We would like the following data for each blood culture

1. Patient identifier –

This should be a unique identifier to your hospital, allowing us to identify when a patient at your hospital has had more than 1 positive culture over time, to ensure we do not double count data. It should not allow us to identify the patient in any way. It could be as simple as a number such as 1,2 etc.

2. Date of positive blood culture(s)

Day/month/year

3. Type of viridans streptococcus

E.g. S. viridans, S. oralis

4. More than 1 set of blood cultures positive?

Yes/no/don't know

5. Endocarditis confirmed?

Yes/no/don't know

Response:

The Trust does not have a centralised electronic reporting system which would provide all of the information you have requested.

The information that you have requested would be held in the current lab system, archived lab systems and in patient case notes. For the Trust to coordinate the information in response to your request from 2000 (14 years) would take longer than the 18 hours stipulated Freedom of Information timescales