

Our ref: IG/FOI/FOI.093.24

4 December 2024

Sent via email to: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

## Request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000

I write further to your request for information, which was received on 6 November 2024, to confirm, in accordance with S.1(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, that Powys Teaching Health Board (PTHB) does hold the information that you require.

For ease of reference your request is set out below and my response follows.

### Your Freedom of Information (FOI) Request:

1. Please supply a copy of your guideline(s) relating to group B Strep during pregnancy, labour, and in newborn babies.
2. Please provide the date when your guidelines relating to group B Strep during pregnancy, labour, and in newborn babies were last updated.
3. Please provide the date when your guidelines relating to group B Strep during pregnancy, labour, and in newborn babies are due to be updated.
4. Do you provide information materials about group B Strep to all pregnant women and people as a routine part of antenatal care? (Yes/No)
5. 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) those who have previously had a baby who developed GBS infection those where GBS was detected before the current pregnancy (swab or urine) those where GBS was detected during the current pregnancy (swab or urine) those who are in preterm labour those with preterm rupture of membranes those with prolonged rupture of membranes those who request information

6. 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.

7. 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] (Yes/No)

8. 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

9. Do you offer GBS-specific testing for maternal GBS carriage to: (Select all that apply) All pregnant women and people Those who previously had a baby who developed GBS infection Those where GBS was detected in a previous pregnancy Those who request it Those in other circumstances (for example, for reasons such as PPROM or vaginal discharge) Other (please state)

10. 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)

11. 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)

12. 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)

13. 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)

14. Do you use the Kaiser Permanente Neonatal Early-Onset Sepsis Calculator? (Yes/No)

14a. If yes to Q14, is there a prospective audit in place? (Yes/No) 14b. If yes to Q14, from what gestation do you use the calculator? Please specify weeks and days e.g. 34+0

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)

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)

Powys Response:

Q1. Please see FOI.093.24 Attachment 1 for a copy of PTHB's guideline relating to group B Strep during pregnancy, labour, and in newborn babies.

Q2. This guideline was last updated November 2021.

Q3. This guidelines is due to be updated November 2024.

Q4. No.

Q5. I can confirm PTHB supplies information to all the groups mentioned in the question during antenatal care.

Q6. Please see the link below for the copies of the information materials which are given to pregnant women and people about Group B Streptococcus (GBS) as a routine part of antenatal care.

<https://gbss.org.uk/product/free-leaflet-group-b-strep-and-pregnancy/>

Q7. Yes.

Q8. PTHB does offer specifically for maternal GBS carriage. PTHB test late in pregnancy.

Q9. PTHB offers GBS-specific testing for maternal GBS carriage to the following:

- Those who previously had a baby who developed GBS infection
- Those where GBS was detected in a previous pregnancy

Q10. I can confirm PTHB does undertake GBS-specific testing for maternal GBS carriage and collects vaginal swab alone.

Q11. The direct culture on selective &/ or indicator media method of are used by the PTHB Microbiology laboratory.

Q12. PTHB does not tend to for GBS unless requested by a consultant, however this is rare.

Q13. No.

Q14. No.

Q14a. Not applicable.

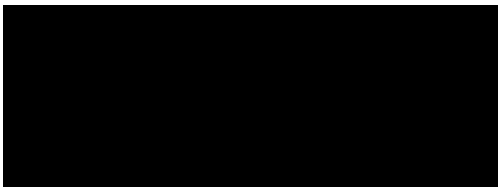
Q15. No.

Q16. Not applicable.

Under the terms of the Health Board's Freedom of Information procedure, individuals seeking access to recorded information held by the Health Board are entitled to request an internal review of the handling of their requests. If you would like to complain about the Health Board's handling of your request, please contact us directly at the address below or register your complaint via [powysfoi.foi@wales.nhs.uk](mailto:powysfoi.foi@wales.nhs.uk)

If after Internal Review you remain dissatisfied you are also entitled to refer the matter to the information commissioner at the Information Commissioner's Office (Wales), 2nd Floor, Churchill House, Churchill Way, Cardiff, CF10 2HH. Telephone Number: 0330 414 6421.

Yours sincerely



**Zoe Ashman**  
**Interim Assistant Director, Women & Children**

Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yng Nghymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb y fath ohebiaeth yng Nghymraeg ac ni fydd hyn yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. We will reply to such correspondence in Welsh and this will not lead to a delay.