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16<sup>th</sup> April 2020

Email:

Dear,

I am writing in response to your enquiry under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) reference FOI 20/02/31

You requested the following information, please also see our response below:

**1, Do you test patient lactate prehospitally? If yes what clinical grades are permitted to do so?**

A very limited trial of point of care testing equipment was undertaken in 2011. Lactate testing was also included in the "LabKit" project which SECamb participated in during 2015.

**2, Is lactate testing available on all frontline emergency ambulances? If no, why not?**

No. The two projects which evaluated the use of lactate monitoring did not continue to full roll out. The evidence at the time supported lactate monitoring for patients at risk of sepsis. This evidence has changed and is not indicated as a requirement in the current UK Sepsis trust guidance for pre-hospital care.

**3, What guidelines do you give to ambulance staff regarding recognition and management of sepsis (e.g. UK Sepsis Trust Guidelines)?**

Joint Royal Colleges Ambulance Liaison Committee (JRCALC) guidelines (which cites UKST) as well as local guidance which cites and utilises the UK Sepsis Trust guidance.

**4, If you do not test lactate prehospitally:**

- **Why not?**

See answer to point 2

- **Has lactate testing ever been available in your service? Why was lactate testing stopped?**

Never fully available, only evaluated as service development projects by a small number of specialist paramedics.

- **As a service is there any intention to introduce lactate testing? For what clinical grades?**

No current plans to introduce lactate monitoring as a standalone test.

I hope you find this information of some assistance.

If for any reason you are dissatisfied with our response, kindly in the first instance contact Caroline Smart, Head of Information Governance via the following email address:

[FOI@secamb.nhs.uk](mailto:FOI@secamb.nhs.uk)

Yours sincerely

Freedom of Information Coordinator  
South East Coast Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust