

7 April 2023

H. Pylori Testing

Questions

Under the Freedom of Information Act, I would like to request answers to the following questions in relation to H. Pylori testing in hospitals throughout your Trust.

- 1. How do you test for H. Pylori infection during upper GI endoscopies? Please specify what tests you use, e.g., Culture Biopsy (Pathology), Urease.**

Urease Test

- 2. How many H. Pylori tests are performed in a typical month?**

There are 170 Urease tests performed in a typical month, split across three endoscopy units in Belfast Trust.

The Trust has no data for H. Pylori faecal antigen tests as these are carried out in the Ulster Hospital Microbiology Lab, as a regional service.

You should therefore redirect this part of your enquiry to South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust (SET).

Email: informationgovernance@setrust.hscni.net

- 3. Who decides to purchase H. Pylori tests?**

Standard endoscopy ordering as a consumable.

- 4. Which H. Pylori test(s) do you use most?**

BIOHIT Healthcare quick test.

- 5. Why do you use these tests most?**

In the unit, rapid answer, patient gets answer before leaving.

- 6. Where in the hospital is the test usually done, and by whom?**

Endoscopy Department, by Endoscopists.

7 April 2023

7. What medication do you use to treat H. Pylori? Please give drug name and brand.

There are many regimens, as outlined in British National Formulary (BNF) and by British Society of Gastroenterology (BSG) – tailored to patient allergies and previous treatments. BSG guidance is attached as separate document. These guidelines are followed and all medications are prescribed generically.

8. What is the typical cost per test? Please give an estimate for unbranded or laboratory own tests.

£2.68 per Urease test.

Cost for H. Pylori faecal antigen tests not known – this question would require to be directed to SET as per Question 2.

9. Do you use a Urease test for H. Pylori? If not, what type of test do you use – e.g. breath test, culture, etc.

Yes, Belfast Trust uses a Urease test.

10. If you use a Urease test for H. Pylori, what type of Urease H. Pylori test do you use? Please give drug name and brand.

BIOHIT Healthcare quick test.