

Confidentiality

The blood test clinic contains seven separate rooms to provide privacy. You will be asked to state your name, date of birth (and possibly your address in certain situations). If you would like to speak to the phlebotomist about any sensitive or confidential subject please mention this to the phlebotomist.

Outreach Phlebotomy Services

We also provide phlebotomy services at the GP practices below. Some test cannot be done at the GP practice and must be taken at The Whittington Hospital NHS Trust, please discuss this with the phlebotomy team.

- **Dartmouth Park Surgery**
Wednesday and Thursday, 9.30am - 1.00pm
- **Highbury Grange Medical Practice**
Monday and Thursday, 9.00am -12.30pm
- **Islington Centre Medical Practice**
Wednesday, 9.00am -12.30pm and Thursday, 9.00am -11.00am
- **The Mildmay Medical Practice**
Wednesday, 8.30am -12 noon
- **Northern Medical Centre**
Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, 8.30am -12.30pm
- **Partnership Primary Care Centre**
Friday 8.30am – 12.30pm
- **Queenswood Medical Practice**
Friday, 9.00am – 12.30pm
- **The Tufnell Surgery**
Tuesday, 8.30am – 12.30pm

Patient advice and liaison service (PALS)

If you have a question, compliment, comment or concern please contact our PALS team on 020 7288 5551 or whh-tr.whitthealthPALS@nhs.net

If you need a large print, audio or translated copy of this leaflet please contact us on 020 7288 3182. We will try our best to meet your needs.

Whittington Health

Magdala Avenue

London

N19 5NF

Phone: 020 7272 3070

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Phlebotomy Service for GP Patients



Opening Times

Monday to Friday, 9.00am-4.30pm

Location

Whittington Hospital, 5th Floor, Outpatients Block,
Magdala Avenue, London N19 5NF

Please note: The department is generally quieter in the afternoons



Why do I need a blood test?

There are many situations in which your doctor may request that you have a blood sample (or samples) taken. These are usually to aid diagnosis, monitor treatment or to exclude certain conditions. In most of these cases these samples will be taken by a procedure known as phlebotomy or venepuncture, i.e. taking blood from a vein.

What do I need to do?

Please make sure that you have the blood request form given to you by your doctor (unless a special arrangement has been made). Please check that the details on this form are for you. Check that your full name, date of birth, and any other details are correct. If any of these details are wrong it is very important that you mention it to your doctor. If you have been requested to fast, please do not have anything to eat or drink, except water and medication, for a minimum of 10 hours prior to attending. If you are unsure whether to fast please check with the doctor who gave you the blood request form.

On arrival, please take a number from the ticket machine by the door and take a seat in the waiting room. When the number on your ticket is called, enter the room number displayed on the screen.

How is a blood sample taken?

The phlebotomist (the person who takes the blood sample) confirms your identity and then puts a tourniquet (a tight band) around your arm just above the elbow. The area in the crook of your arm is cleaned and the tip of a new sterile needle is inserted gently into the vein on the inner arm.

Blood is withdrawn into the sample bottle(s). Several bottles may be necessary, however the amount taken into each is very small and they can all be taken at the same time.

Once completed, the phlebotomist removes the needle and pressure will be applied to a piece of cotton wool over the site to stop bleeding. Once this has stopped a piece of micropore dressing will be applied. Please keep this on for a minimum of half an hour. Avoid excessive movement of the arm, such as lifting or carrying heavy bags for an hour or so after the test.

Will it hurt?

The initial insertion of the needle involves a pin prick sensation, but after that the rest of the procedure should be relatively painless.

How long will my results take?

The results of most samples will be sent to the GP on the day they are taken. Please allow the GP four working days to review the results before contacting them. There are some tests that will take longer as the sample may be sent to a specialist laboratory.

Can there be any complications?

If you are nervous or have a tendency to faint please let the phlebotomist know. We can reassure you and if necessary lay you flat whilst the procedure is done.

A small bruise or lump may develop as some patients are more likely to bruise than others. Whilst bruising may look alarming it is usually self-limiting and does not require treatment. Some conditions may increase the risk of bruising, these are:

- Medications such as warfarin, aspirin or steroids.
- Conditions such as bleeding disorders
- Those with lower than normal numbers of platelets in their blood (this is sometimes called thrombocytopenia)
- Where it is difficult to locate a vein
- Some elderly or frail patients

Please tell the phlebotomist if any of the above applies or if you have previously experienced problems. The phlebotomist will assess your veins and identify an appropriate site to take the blood sample.

Blood test for children

To take your child's blood, an adult must be present and parental consent given. If a parent is not able to attend, the accompanying adult must bring a signed written consent from the parent, in a short note, and details of who they are. Please note we cannot see children under the age of six. All children under this age, or any child requiring topical analgesia (e.g. EMLA® cream) must arrange a blood test by appointment in clinic 4D.

Training

Occasionally we train other health professionals in phlebotomy.

We will tell you if the person is in training and ask your permission for a trainee to take your test. If you do not want a trainee to take your blood test please inform the supervising phlebotomist. Please do not feel embarrassed to do this.