

November 2020

Frequently asked questions - phlebotomy

Booking a blood (phlebotomy) test

The way to access a routine blood test requested by your GP has changed.

Most patients requiring walk-in blood tests at St Mary's Hospital will be able to have the test within their own GP practice.

Below is a set of questions and answers which may help with more information:

Where can I get a blood test if my GP or nurse requests one for me?

Most patients will be able to book a test via your GP practice. If you are required to have a blood test then you will be able to book your test while you are talking to a doctor or nurse. You may also be able to book online via your practice website.

Patients registered at Esplanade Surgery, Argyll House and Tower House can now access blood tests at Tower House Practice. Your practice will provide you with guidance for this. Arrange your appointment with your own practice.

Please note the temporary blood test clinic in the Westridge Centre in Ryde is no longer open.

Patients registered at Cowes Medical Centre will continue to receive their blood test in St Mary's Hospital. More details are available further down the Q&A.

Can I still go to the walk-in blood test clinic at St Mary's Hospital?

The majority of patients will no longer be able to walk-in to St Mary's Hospital for a blood test. Instead most patients will be able to have these tests at their local GP surgery.

All patients registered at Cowes Medical Practice will be required to continue using the walk-in service in St Mary's Hospital.

In certain circumstances you may be required to go to St Mary's Hospital for your blood test. In these cases your GP practice will provide you with information and guidance on this.

Can I still go to Ryde Health and Wellbeing Centre for a blood test?

During the first lockdown in March the health centre was closed in order to slow down the spread of coronavirus. We now have an opportunity to deliver an improved blood test service where you can have your test at your GP practice. Therefore the Ryde centre will no longer be providing this service.

Why is this change taking place?

Coronavirus forced us to put in place temporary arrangements, but now we have an opportunity to redesign a service fit for the future. Having your blood test at your practice will mean:

- Patients will be given an appointment which means waiting times will be reduced
- Blood tests taking place in a GP practice means it will be delivered in out-of-hospital setting, closer to patients home and therefore reduces travel time
- 15-minute appointments will allow for cleaning time in-between, keeping it safe for patients
- Patients can book an appointments through their practice
- More appointments are being put on with later collection times to ensure there is enough capacity for all patients needing blood tests.

Does this mean I will have to wait longer to have a blood test?

No – having your blood test at your GP surgery will mean you should be seen more quickly.

What about blood tests for children?

For children aged 12 and under the test will continue to be carried out in the paediatric department within St Mary's Hospital. This is located on level C. The closest car park is North car park and the closest entrance to the department is the main entrance.

What about blood tests for outpatient appointments?

Any outpatient blood tests including Warfarin (INR) blood tests at clinic, requested by the hospital doctor or nurse, will be done at St Mary's Hospital.

Will I need to wear a face mask if I come into my practice for a blood test?

Yes. To help limit the spread of the virus, we are asking for all patients aged 12 and over to wear a face covering when they come to the practice. This doesn't have to be a face mask, but a cloth covering which covers your mouth and nose while allowing you to breathe comfortably. It can be as simple as a [scarf or bandana](#) that ties behind the head.

Will I need to wear a face mask if I come into St Mary's Hospital for a blood test?

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I am a registered patient with Cowes Medical Centre, where do I go for my blood test?

You will continue to use a walk-in service in St Mary's Hospital.

Where is the blood test clinic located in St Mary's Hospital?

The clinic is located on B level of St Mary's Hospital. The best car park to use is the main car park and if you come in through the main entrance you can follow signs for the clinic. Phlebotomy clinic is closed until 8.30am on the first Wednesday of every month for staff training.

What time will the walk-in service be available at St Mary's Hospital?

For those patients who need to come in, the clinic will be open from 7.30am to 4pm, Monday to Friday.

This document is available in alternative formats upon request, including large print, easy read or in other languages.

Please call the Communications and Engagement Team on **(01983) 552064** or email fgccg.sehccgengagement@nhs.net.