

Where can I go to have my bloods taken?

Unlike a lot of other Surgeries on the Wirral, Hamilton Medical Centre have decided to host our own clinics in our Surgery. We have listened to patient feedback from your current and past experiences with Phlebotomy and have taken your opinions on board. All patient blood tests will be dealt with at Hamilton Medical Centre, we feel this will improve continuity of your care.

We have Blood Clinics daily, for which you can pre-book your appointment, keeping waiting times to a minimum. Nurses and Doctors may also take your blood at other times to suit you. Please ask at reception for further details if you need to have your blood taken.

Home Visit for Bloods

This is strictly for housebound patients only. If you are not housebound you will be asked to come to the surgery to have your bloods. If you need to have your bloods taken and are housebound, please contact reception on 649 0191 to arrange for your blood visit.

Finally, Keeping your Appointment!

It is important that you keep your Phlebotomy appointment, please ensure if you cannot attend that you inform the Practice in plenty of time, so we can re-book you and are able to use your freed appointment slot for another patient.

This leaflet can be made available in other languages and formats upon request

Phlebotomy

A Guide to having a blood test

Advice for Patients

Hamilton Medical Centre

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Wirral Clinical Commissioning Group

Why do I need a blood test?

There are a number of reasons why you may be requested to have a blood sample taken. This might be to help with a diagnosis, to monitor treatment or to exclude certain conditions. In most cases these samples will be taken by a procedure known as Phlebotomy or Venepuncture i.e. taking blood from a vein. The information given below will explain the procedure in more detail.

How is a blood sample taken?

The procedure is performed by a trained member of staff, usually a phlebotomist, doctor, nurse or Healthcare Assistant. A tourniquet is placed around your arm just above the elbow, the area is cleaned and then a small needle is inserted into a vein on the inner arm. Blood is withdrawn into sample bottles and the needle is then removed. Pressure is applied at the site with a piece of cotton wool or gauze until the bleeding has stopped and then a small plaster is applied. Please tell the person taking the blood if you are allergic to sticking plaster or if you are on any medication that thins the blood (such as Warfarin or Aspirin)

Will it hurt?

Putting the needle into the arm involves a pin prick sensation but after that the rest of the procedure should be quite painless. Some people may continue to feel some discomfort or pain which is normal. It is probably because of nerves under the surface of the skin but this should settle quite quickly. If you continue to experience discomfort or pain you should contact your GP for advice.

Will it bruise?

You may get a bruise or a small lump after having blood taken. This will usually settle by itself and fade away in time.

Some conditions may increase the risk of bruising. These include:-

- * Drugs such as Warfarin or Aspirin
- * Conditions such as a bleeding disorder or low platelets (thrombocytopenia)
- * When it is hard to get a vein, for example if the arm is swollen (oedema)
- * Elderly patients

To help reduce this risk as much as possible, please tell the person taking the blood if you have any such conditions or if you have had a problem in the past after a blood test. Pressing firmly on the site until the bleeding has stopped should help to reduce any bruising.

Should you experience excessive bruising or prolonged bleeding, then apply further firm pressure to the area. A few ice cubes wrapped in a towel may help reduce any swelling and bruising. Bruising can look very dramatic and some people may find this worrying especially if it appears away from the site where the blood has been taken or is visible for a few days following the procedure. However, it is usually harmless and will go away in time. Please contact your GP if you have any concerns.

What happens to the blood samples?

The samples are tested in the pathology laboratory and the results sent to the person who asked for the sample to be taken. Some samples may need to be sent away for further tests or stored in case we need to refer to them in the future.

Blood results can normally take up to 5 days to return to the person that has requested them. Normally the requester will contact you if you need to be seen regarding your results. If you don't hear anything and are still concerned, please contact the person who sent you for the test.

If you have any questions about this procedure please ask the member of staff taking the sample or the person responsible for your care.

Complaints / Compliments

If you have any complaints, compliments or comments of the service and treatment you have received please contact your GP Practice. You can phone them on 0151 649 0191 or email WICCG.hamilton@nhs.net

Remember....

Please inform the Phlebotomist before your test if you have had any past experiences such as fainting.

*Please talk to staff if you have any concerns or require any further information.
The staff are here to help you.*