

Open Access Anticoagulant Clinic

Department of haematology

Patient information

What is the open access anticoagulant clinic?

This clinic enables you to come for a blood test for warfarin control at a convenient date and time within a certain week.

Who is eligible?

To attend the clinic you must:

- have a telephone number and be able to understand instructions given over the telephone
- be able to read English
- have a permanent address

How does it work?

- When you receive your appointment you will be given a date. This date will be a Sunday. You can come to the open access anticoagulant clinic any time during that week between Monday and Friday.
- You can go to any one of the blood test rooms listed below for your blood test.
- We will take blood by pricking your finger or by taking a sample from a vein in your arm.
- The blood sample or test result is sent with the yellow book to St George's Hospital where dosing is done by the anticoagulant nurses.
- We will telephone you that day if you need to make **significant dose changes**.
- You will not have to wait at the clinic for your yellow book to be returned. The book will usually be posted back to you the same day by first class post.
- You should **check the dosing** in your yellow book when you receive it in case your dose has been changed.

What happens after the blood test?

- If your blood test room offers finger prick testing and the initial blood INR blood test result is high, you may need a venous sample taken from your arm.
- If you have bleeding or bruising you may be asked to wait for the venous blood test result in case medical treatment is needed.
- If your GP or consultant has asked for other blood tests, the INR blood test will also be taken from the arm.
- We advise you to keep an old yellow book or a copy of your most recent results and dosing with you while your current yellow book is being processed in case of any emergency.

Who will organise my warfarin dose?

Although you no longer need to regularly attend the standard Anticoagulation Clinic at St George's Hospital, we will continue to be responsible for dosing your warfarin.

Where do I go for my blood test?

You can have a blood test at the following places:

St George's Hospital

Blackshaw Road

Blood test room	Monday to Friday
Lanesborough Wing	08.00 to 16.30 hours

Blood test room	Monday to Friday
St James Wing	09.00 to 16.30 hours

St John's Hill Therapy Centre

Blood Test Room	Monday to Friday
	08.00 to 13.00 hours
	14.00 to 16.00 hours

You can also have a blood test at the following Health Centres even if you are not registered there:

Balham Health Centre

120 Bedford Hill	Monday to Friday
Balham	08.30 to 12.30 hours

Brocklebank Health Centre

249 Garratt Lane	Monday to Friday
Wandsworth	08.30 to 12.30 hours

Southfields Group Practice

492 Merton Road

Monday to Friday

08.30 to 12.30 hours

Your own GP may offer blood testing by appointment.

What do I do if I need to see a nurse or doctor?

If you telephone the anticoagulant clinic, we will book an appointment for you to be seen at the standard clinic.

You may be asked to attend the standard clinic if

- You have recently been an inpatient.
- You are due to have surgery or other hospital procedure that may require your anticoagulation to be adjusted.
- You have bleeding or bruising.
- You need to be reviewed by the doctor or sister.
- your anticoagulant control is unstable

Please let the clinic know immediately

- If you change your address or telephone number.
- If you change your medications including herbal or alternative medications.
- If you have any bleeding or bruising.
- If you are unable to attend for your appointment.
- If you are about to have any surgical, dental or other invasive procedure.

How can I contact the Anticoagulant Clinic?

For appointments and transport:
020 8725 5480

For medical advice:
020 8725 5443

For evening and weekend emergencies only:
Telephone the St George's Hospital switchboard on 020 8672 1255 and ask for the on-call haematology registrar

Any questions?

If you have any questions or worries about using the open access anticoagulant clinic please call the anticoagulant sisters on 020 8725 5443.



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