

## Emergency Department

# Routine HIV Testing at St George's Emergency Department

This leaflet explains more about HIV Testing at St George's Emergency Department and what you can expect when you come to hospital.

If you have any further questions, please speak to a doctor or nurse caring for you.

### Why am I being tested for HIV?

Our Emergency Department now tests all patients aged 16 years and over for HIV if they are having other blood tests done. Many people living with HIV do not know they have it.

It can take years for any symptoms to develop, so it's important to get tested when you can.

HIV is now a long-term manageable medical condition. If you know your diagnosis and take your treatment, you can stay completely well.

### How will I get my results?

We will not contact you if your results are negative for HIV, as no action is needed.

If your HIV test is 'reactive' it will need re-checking. It is only a screening test and does not mean you definitely have HIV. You will need a further test. Our specialist health advisors will contact you to explain and ask you to come back to the hospital to repeat the HIV test.

If you really want to check your result, please call the Courtyard clinic on 020 8725 3140 between 9.30 to 10am on Monday mornings and ask to speak to a health advisor. Please leave at least seven days after your test before calling about your result.

### What if I don't want to know my HIV status?

Many people do not realise they have been at risk of infection, which is why it is important to test as many people as possible. It is important to know your HIV status early so that if you are HIV positive, you can access treatment and prevent transmission of HIV to others.

HIV treatment is very effective and easy to take. These days, most people living with HIV live long and healthy lives

However, if you decide you don't want to know your HIV status, please speak to a member of staff to opt out of the HIV test before having blood taken.

If you already know you are HIV positive and are receiving care please also let a member of staff know so you can opt out.

## What if my contact details change?

Please check we have your correct contact details. If they change in the week after your test, you need to contact your GP to update your records and call the results line to obtain your result.

## Useful sources of information

### Terrence Higgins Trust

The Terrence Higgins Trust is the UK's leading HIV charity. Please contact them for any information advice or support.

**Tel:** 0808 802 1221 **email:** [info@tht.org.uk](mailto:info@tht.org.uk) **website:** [www.tht.org.uk](http://www.tht.org.uk)

### National Aids Map (NAM)

NAM provides useful information on HIV and AIDS.

**Tel:** 020 7837 6988 **email:** [info@nam.org.uk](mailto:info@nam.org.uk) **website:** [www.aidsmap.com](http://www.aidsmap.com)

### Wandsworth Sexual Health clinic

For urgent sexual health or contraception needs

<https://shswl.nhs.uk/> Tel: 0333 300 2100 Monday to Friday 8am to 7pm for appointments.

**For more information leaflets on conditions, procedures, treatments and services offered at our hospitals, please visit [www.stgeorges.nhs.uk](http://www.stgeorges.nhs.uk)**

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## Additional services

### Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS)

PALS can offer you on-the-spot advice and information when you have comments or concerns about our services or the care you have received. You can visit the PALS office between 9.30am and 4.30pm, Monday to Friday in the main corridor between Grosvenor and Lanesborough wings (near the lift foyer).

**Tel:** 020 8725 2453 **Email:** [pals@stgeorges.nhs.uk](mailto:pals@stgeorges.nhs.uk)

### NHS Choices

NHS Choices provides online information and guidance on all aspects of health and healthcare, to help you make decisions about your health. **Web:** [www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk)

### NHS 111

You can call 111 when you need medical help fast but it's not a 999 emergency. NHS 111 is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Calls are free from landlines and mobile phones. **Tel:** 111

## AccessAble

You can download accessibility guides for all of our services by searching 'St George's Hospital' on the AccessAble website ([www.accessable.co.uk](http://www.accessable.co.uk)). The guides are designed to ensure everyone – including those with accessibility needs – can access our hospital and community sites with confidence.



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