

## Emergency Department

# Routine Blood Borne Virus Testing at St George's Emergency Department

This leaflet explains about Blood Borne Virus Testing at St George's Emergency Department.

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

## What are Blood Borne Viruses (BBVs)?

Blood Borne Viruses include HIV, Hepatitis B (HBV) and Hepatitis C (HCV).

## Why am I being tested for Blood Borne Viruses?

Our Emergency Department (ED) now tests all patients aged 16 years and over for BBVs if they are having other blood tests done. Nearly all EDs in London now test for HIV.

Many people living with HIV, HBV and HCV do not know they have the virus and it can take years for any symptoms to develop, so it's important to get tested when you can.

HIV and HBV are now long-term manageable medical conditions and there is a cure for HCV. 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, HBV and HCV 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 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 your hepatitis C or B result is positive our specialist Viral Hepatitis Team will contact you to explain and organise a follow up appointment for an assessment.

If you really want to check your result, please call the Courtyard clinic on 020 8725 3140 or the Viral Hepatitis Team on 020 8725 0758 between 9.30 and 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.

Occasionally we are unable to do the test (e.g difficulty taking blood). If you have concerns and feel you need to talk to someone else or be re-tested then please see the additional resources below.

## **What if I don't want to know my BBV 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 BBV status early so that if you are positive, you can access treatment and prevent transmission to others.

There is a cure for HCV now with a high success rate.

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

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

If you already know you are HIV, HCV or HBV positive and are receiving care please also let a member of staff know so you can opt out. You will need to opt out again after 12 months if you still do not want to be tested.

## **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**

**Pan London Advice and information on ED testing (available in multiple languages)**

[Fast-Track Cities London: Helping end HIV by 2030](#)

[A5-Leaflet-Blood-Testing-in-Emergency-Departments-30-Mar.pdf](#)

### **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.

[Sexual Health South West London](#)

**Tel:** [0333 300 2100](tel:03333002100) Monday to Friday 8am to 7pm for appointments.

**Hepatitis C Trust** The national charity for hepatitis C, please contact them for any information advice or support. **Tel.** 020 7089 6221 **website:** [www.hepctrust.org.uk](http://www.hepctrust.org.uk)

Hep B Companion is a non-profit organisation, please contact them for any information, advice or support. **Website:** [www.hepbcompanion.org](http://www.hepbcompanion.org)

### **British Liver Trust**

A charitable organisation in The United Kingdom which has a focus in the health of the liver.  
**Tel.** 0800 652 7330 **email:** [helpline@britishlivertrust.org.uk](mailto:helpline@britishlivertrust.org.uk)  
**website:** [www.britishlivertrust.org.uk](http://www.britishlivertrust.org.uk)

**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)**

## **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 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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