

Cervical Smears

Women aged 25– 64 are invited for a routine smear test every 5 years. Your result will be sent to you by post, usually within 6 weeks.

Breath Tests

If you have ongoing symptoms of heartburn/ indigestion you may be asked to arrange a breath test. This is looking for a bacteria called Helicobacter Pylori. Results can take up to 4 weeks to come back. If your test is positive and requires treatment we will contact you.

Spirometry/ 24 Hr BP monitors/ ABPI Dopplers

If you attend the surgery for any of these tests the results will be passed on to a GP or ANP to review. If you have not heard from us after a week please give us a call.

Gastroscopy/ Colonoscopy Results

Camera tests take around a week to come back. If you have not heard anything after 2 weeks please give us a call.

Histology/ Biopsy Results

Histology from minor surgery and biopsies taken from colonoscopies etc. can take several months to come back. There is nothing the surgery can do to speed this process up. Please be assured that we will contact you if any follow-up is required once we receive these results.



A Patient Guide to Obtaining Test Results



Blood tests and x-rays etc. take varying times to be processed and reported. We understand you may be anxious to know your results however, we do ask that you give us time to process them.

Whilst we do not contact you for normal results, please be assured that we will contact you if any follow-up or treatment is required.

The reception team are not qualified to comment on results.

Blood Test Results

Most blood results are back within a few days. If you have not heard from us after 7 days of your blood test please contact us. This allows both the lab and the responsible clinician time to process and report on the result.

Some tests are processed at labs outside the area and can take a few weeks to come back. You will normally be informed of this at the time the sample is taken.

Urine Samples

If you are asked to hand in a urine sample, please ensure you obtain a sterile container from reception. If you believe you have a urinary tract infection (UTI) please use a red topped bottle and leave the white preservative powder in the bottle.

White topped bottles are usually required for annual review appointments and test for kidney function and protein, though other tests can also be requested in a white topped container.

Urine samples must at least fill the cone shape at the bottom of the bottle to be sufficient for testing.

Stool (faeces) Samples

You may be asked to produce a stool sample if you have diarrhoea there is a possibility of food poisoning or infection. The sample will be sent to the lab to test for bacteria such as salmonella, campylobacter or E.Coli.

You may also be asked for a stool sample if you have a change in bowel habit. These samples check for signs of inflammation (faecal calprotectin) in the bowel or non-visible blood in the stool that can be a sign of bowel cancers (qFit test). The clinician will discuss your symptoms with you and explain why they are requesting the tests.

X-rays and Scans requested by Hospital

If you are under the care of a hospital department and they arrange a test for you such as MRI scan/ CT scan, heart monitors etc. then they will advise you of the results either by arranging a follow-up appointment or by writing to you with the result. The surgery do not generally receive the results until you have been advised.

X-rays and Scans requested by Practice

If a clinician refers you for an x-ray, ultrasound or CT scan the results usually take around 10 days to come back. If you have not heard from us after 2 weeks of having the test performed, please contact us.