



PATIENT INFORMATION

Blood Borne Virus Testing

A member of staff has accidentally sustained a contamination injury (by means of a scratch, bite or from a sharp instrument) during the course of your treatment.

We are requesting to test your blood in order to assist the member of staff and would like to test your blood for three specific viruses. All three viruses can be present without your knowledge.

Guidance from the Department of Health and Trust Policy suggests that we approach you to gain your consent to test your blood for Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C and HIV.

If you test negative for these viruses, it will help reduce any anxieties the healthcare worker may have.

If you test positive for these viruses, it will enable appropriate treatments to be given to both you and the healthcare worker. Treatments for Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C can help reduce damage to your liver and in some instances offer a cure. New treatments for HIV are more effective if given before any serious illness develops.

The ways in which Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C and HIV are transmitted can include sexual intercourse, intravenous drug use, or having had blood transfusions before 1991.

Advantages of Testing to You

If you think you may be at risk of having one of these viruses detection will enable treatment to be started if this is needed. You will be referred to a specialist for any treatment.

If you have one of these viruses you can be given advice to protect your partner.

Disadvantages of Testing for You

Worry, waiting for the results and receiving a positive result may cause you anxiety.

Possible negative effects on your relationship with family.

People sometimes worry that having this test will affect their ability to get life insurance. The Association of British Insurers have agreed that having a negative test for one of these viruses will not affect an application for insurance.