



Pre-treatment blood tests required

Information for patients on when to have blood tests taken before receiving tablet or infusions/injections treatment for cancer.

This information leaflet has been designed to provide information to patients receiving either tablet medication or infusions/injections as part of their cancer treatment.

If you have any further questions then please speak to your doctor or nurse specialist who will be more than happy to help. This leaflet is not designed to replace the more specific leaflets within your treatment pack or given to you by your doctor or nurse specialist.

Why do I need a blood test before my treatment?

Before the nurse can administer your treatment or the pharmacist can dispense your tablets there are many checks to complete to ensure your safety. One of these checks includes a review of your blood test to ensure that they are acceptable for you to be given your treatment.

When do I need to get my bloods done?

Most commonly bloods tests should be taken 2-3 days prior to your chemotherapy. However your doctor or nurse will tell you when to get your bloods taken as it can be different depending on your treatment. Having the blood taken too early might result in the sample being too old and therefore needing to be taken again. It does take the laboratory time to process your blood test, so please avoid having them taken less than 24 hours before your treatment.

Where can I have my blood taken?

You should arrange to have your blood taken at either your General Practice (GP) or at the blood test centre, at the Great Western Hospital.

What should I tell the receptionist to ensure they provide an appointment on the right day?

It is important to tell the receptionist that you are receiving treatment for your cancer and that your blood test must be taken on the day advised by your doctor or nurse.

It is important to explain that if it is taken too early that you might need to have it repeated as some tests have an expiry date.



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What if there are no blood tests appointments available?

If the GP receptionist is unable to provide a slot please ask if your request can be reviewed by one of the nurses at the practice and deemed as urgent. You will not be able to have your treatment unless you have had your blood test; the test is therefore classed as an urgent appointment.

Your Clinical Nurse Specialist can be contacted for further advice and support if required.

Notes

Please use the space below to write down any questions you might have or to make notes.

Smoking will not be permitted on any NHS site in England. Smoking will not be permitted within any of our buildings or anywhere outside on our sites. Smoking facilities will not be provided. Please be considerate of others when vaping in hospital grounds.

This information sheet is available to order in other languages and formats. If you would like a copy, please contact us on 01793 604031 or email gwh.pals@nhs.net

Document Control

Division: Integrated & Community Care
Department: Oncology Department
Approved Date: 22 December 2020
Next Review Date: January 2024
Document Number: I&CC - PIL029