

MTW Pathology Tests available and bottles required

Some samples are referred to centres of excellence for either initial analysis or for confirmatory/more specialised testing. See Referral Centre column if this applies. For details about the referral centres we use, [click here](#).

See [Order of draw](#) for the order in which to collect blood samples

Click [here](#) for the different Microbiology swab types and specimen collection techniques

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A

TEST	Specimen Instructions/ Comments	Specimen Type	Container or blood tube	Hospital Turnaround time	GP Turnaround time	Referral centre (if not MTW)	Referred Turnaround time	Time Limit for requesting as extra	Can sample be stored overnight ?	Request Form type/Section
17-Hydroxyprogesterone (17OHP) (adult)	Please state clinical indication	blood	Plain Clot (red top)	Referred	Referred	St Thomas	20 d	not available	no	Blood Science - Chem
17-hydroxyprogesterone (17OHP) (Paediatrics)	Do not take until newborn >48hrs old. When being collected into a paediatric bottle	blood	Lithium Heparin (Green Top)	Referred	Referred	St Thomas	20 d	not available	no	Blood Science - Chem
25 OH Vitamin D	See Vitamin D									
5 HIAA (5-Hydroxyindole Acetic Acid)	Investigation and monitoring of patients with carcinoid syndrome. 5HT-rich foods should be excluded from the diet for at least 12 hours before (and during) the collection is commenced, they include: walnut, banana, pineapple, kiwi fruit, avocado, pecan, h	24hr urine	5L Acid Container	Referred	Referred	WHH		5d	4°C (fridge)	Blood Science - Chem
AAFB (TB) other		Fluid, Pus, Tissue (Not swabs)	Plain 20mL Universal (white top)	Microscopy 90% in 3 working days. Same day if urgent. Cultures: up to 42 days but may take up to nine weeks.	Microscopy 90% in 3 working days. Same day if urgent. Cultures: normally up to 42 days but may take up to nine weeks.	Colindale		susceptibility testing on positives: 1-2 months depending on strain	4°C (fridge)	Microbiology
AAFB (TB) Sputum		Sputum	60ml (white top)	Microscopy 90% in 3 working days.	Microscopy 90% in 3 working days.	Micropathology (Fast Track) Colindale for	TB Fast Track up to 4 days		4°C (fridge)	Microbiology

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				Same day if urgent. Cultures: up to 42 days but may take up to nine weeks	Same day if urgent. Cultures: up to 42 days but may take up to nine weeks	susceptibility	susceptibility testing on positives: 1-2 months depending on strain			
AAFB (TB) Urine	Specimens batched	3 x Early morning urine	EMU x3 - kits provided	Cultures: normally up to 42 days but may take up to nine weeks.	Cultures: normally up to 42 days but may take up to nine weeks.	Colindale	susceptibility testing on positives: 1-2 months depending on strain		4°C (fridge)	Microbiology
Acanthamoeba	Deliver to laboratory on day of collection	Contact Lens or Contact Lens fluid or Contact Lens Case or eye swab in normal sterile saline.	See specimen type	Referred	Referred	Micropathology	90% in 2 working days		No	Microbiology
ACE (Angiotensin Converting Enzyme)	Not indicated if patient on ACE inhibitors. Not recommended for screening. Consultant Chest, Neurologist or Ophthalmologist or confirmed sarcoid	blood	Gel Clot (Gold top)	Referred	Referred	KC	14 day	not available	no	Blood Science - Chem

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ACRA (Acetylcholine Receptor Ab)	Paediatric samples must be red top	blood	Gel Clot (Gold top)			William Harvey, Ashford	7 weeks	7 days if no immunology already requested, 6 weeks if additional immunology test	room temp	Blood Science - Immunology
ACTH (Adrenocorticotrophic Hormone)	Take at 9 am with paired sample for cortisol (red top). Sample must reach Biochemistry within 10 mins.	blood	EDTA (Purple top)	Referred	test not available	St Thomas	22 d	not available	no	Blood Science - Chem
Acylcarnitine	Guthrie card required	blood spot	Guthrie card	Referred	test not available	St Thomas WellChild Lab	125 d	not available	no	Blood Science - Chem
Adenovirus PCR		Blood/ eye swab	EDTA (Purple top) /viral transport swab	Referred	Referred	Micropathology Ltd (Viapath for Kings Liver Transplant patients)	3 working days (4 working days)		4°C fridge	Microbiology
Adrenal Antibodies	Paediatric samples must be red top	blood	Gel Clot (Gold top)			William Harvey, Ashford	7 weeks	7 days if no immunology already requested, 6 weeks if additional immunology test	room temp	Blood Science - Immunology
Adult Coeliac Screen		blood	Gel Clot (Gold top)			William Harvey, Ashford	8 days		room temp	Blood Science - Immunology

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AFP (Alpha Feto Protein)	Not recommended for screening. Only recommended for Hepatocellular, Hepatoma, Ca testes, Ca ovary	blood	Gel Clot (Gold top)	3 days	3 days	Maidstone		3d	no	Blood Science - Chem
Albumin (24hr Urine)		urine	5L plain container	24hr	24h			3d	4°C (fridge)	Blood Science - Chem
Albumin (serum)		blood	Gel Clot (Gold top)	4h	24h			3d	no	Blood Science - Chem
Albumin excretion rate	Overnight timed urine collection - usually 8 hrs. Please state times.	urine	5L plain container	24h	24h			3d	4°C (fridge)	Blood Science - Chem
Albumin/Creat ratio (Urine)		urine	Monovette	24 h	24 h			3 d	4°C (fridge)	Blood Science - Chem
Aldosterone/ Renin	Random sample or Contact Biochemistry for special patient preparation. Send sample to lab within 10 mins. Patient must stop beta blockers, spiro lactone for at least two weeks prior to sample collection. Electrolytes replaced if indicated before testing.	blood	Lithium Heparin (Green Top)	Referred	test not available	Charing Cross	45 d	not available	no	Blood Science - Chem
Allergy Testing	See RAST testing									
ALP (Alkaline phosphatase)		blood	Gel Clot (Gold top)	4h	24h			3d	no	Blood Science - Chem
ALP isoenzymes (Alkaline phosphatase isoenzymes)	Only indicated if ALP is > 1.5 times upper limit of reference range.	blood	Gel Clot (Gold top)	Referred	Referred	William Harvey	54 d	not available	no	Blood Science - Chem
Alpha 1 Antitrypsin		blood	Gel Clot (Gold top)	Referred	Referred	Sheffield	18 d	not available	no	Blood Science - Chem

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ALT (Alanine Transaminase)		blood	Gel Clot (Gold top)	3 days	3days	Maidstone		3d	no	Blood Science - Chem
AMH (Anti-mullerian hormone)	Available to MTW fertility consultants only, not GPs	blood	Gel Clot (Gold top)	Referred	n/a	Medway	8 days	not available	no	Blood Science - Chem
Amikacin – once daily dosage	Take Pre-dose before giving the next dose. Post dose levels are not required.	Blood	9 ml Plain Clot (Red top)	Referred		Bristol	1 working day (phoned result)		No	Microbiology
Amikacin – 2 or 3 times daily dosage	Take samples Pre dose & 1hr post dose	Blood	2x 9ml Plain Clot (Red top)	Referred		Bristol	1 working day (phoned result)		no	Microbiology
Amino Acids (Blood)	Please state clinical indication	blood	Lithium Heparin Green Top	Referred	Referred	St Thomas	31 d	3 d		Blood Science - Chem
Amino acids (Urine)	Random sample. Please state clinical indication	urine	Plain 30mL Universal (white top)	Referred	Referred	St Thomas	43 d	not available	no	Blood Science - Chem
Amiodarone	Please state dosage and time of last dose.	blood	Gel Clot (Gold top)	Referred	Referred	Epsom	11 d	not available	no	Blood Science - Chem
Ammonia (Plasma)	Only available after requesting clinician has pre- arranged with Biochemistry. Transport to lab within 10 mins ideally on ice	blood	EDTA (Purple top)	4h	not available			not available	no	Blood Science - Chem
Amoeba (Hot stool)	Not routinely available, please contact Consultant Microbiologist	faeces	Plain 30ml blue top universal	30 Mins post voiding	NA	NA	NA		no	Microbiology
Amoebic serology		blood	9 ml plain Clot (red top)	Referred	Referred	Hospital for tropical diseases	12 working days		4°C fridge	Microbiology
Amylase (Serum) (Adults)	Adults	blood	Gel Clot (Gold top)	4h				3d	no	Blood Science - Chem

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Amylase (Paediatrics)	When being collected into a paediatric bottle	blood	Lithium Heparin Green Top	4h				3d	no	Blood Science - Chem
ANCA (Anti neutrophil cytoplasmic antibody)	Can be done urgently by arrangement with lab. Initially please contact Maidstone Biochemistry. Paediatric samples must be red top	blood	Gel Clot (Gold top)	Referred	Referred	WILLIAM HARVEY	2 weeks	7 days if no immunology already requested, 6 weeks if additional immunology test		Blood Science - Immunology
Androstenedione	Consultant Endocrinologist or Gynaecologist requests only	blood	Plain Clot (red top)	Referred	Referred	Kings	19 d	not available	no	Blood Science - Chem
Antenatal blood group & antibody screen	Some specimens may need to be referred	blood	Xmatch EDTA (Pink top)	3 working days	4 working days	NBS RCI lab, Tooting	2 weeks		4°C (fridge)	Transfusion
Antenatal serology		blood	Plain Clot (Red top)	97% within 6 working days	97% within 6 working days	positives: see Hep B, HIV, Syphilis		1 year	4°C (fridge)	Microbiology
Anti C1q		blood	Gel Clot (Gold top)			William Harvey, Ashford	21 days		room temp	Blood Science - Immunology
Anti CCP		blood	Gel Clot (Gold top)			William Harvey, Ashford	14 days		room temp	Blood Science - Immunology
Antibody identifications	Some specimens may need to be referred	blood	Xmatch EDTA (Pink top)	Next working day		NBS RCI lab, Tooting	2 weeks		4°C (fridge)	Transfusion
Antibody quantitation		blood	Xmatch EDTA (Pink top)			NBS RCI lab, Tooting	2 weeks		4°C (fridge)	Transfusion

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Antibody screening		blood	Xmatch EDTA (Pink top)	Next working day					4°C (fridge)	Transfusion
Anti-Cardiolipins		blood	Plain Clot (Red top)	4 weeks	4 weeks			48 hrs	4°C (fridge)	Blood Science - Haem
Antinuclear Antibodies (ANA/ANF)	Paediatric samples must be red top	blood	Gel Clot (Gold top)			William Harvey, Ashford	2 weeks	7 days if no immunology already requested, 6 weeks if additional immunology test	room temp	Blood Science - Immunology
Antiphospholipid antibodies	see Anti-Cardiolipins and Immunology									
Antithrombin III	Only stable for 4 hours. Send to lab straight after venepuncture (patient only to be bled in the hospital if this test is required) Also part of Thrombophilia Screen	blood	Citrate (Blue top)	4 weeks	4 weeks			within 4 hrs of venepuncture	no	Blood Science - Haem
APC resistance	Refer to Thrombophilia Screen									
APTT(Activated Partial Thromboplastin Time)	Only stable for 4 hours. Send to lab ASAP (request this test on its own for heparin monitoring only)	blood	Citrate (Blue top)	4 hours	24 hours			within 2 - 3 hrs of venepuncture	no	Blood Science - Haem
Ascitic Fluid – cytology	See Fluids for cytology									
Ascitic Fluid – microbiology	See Fluids (MCS)									
ASO (Anti-streptolysin O)		blood	Plain Clot (Red top)	90% in 5 working days	90% in 5 working days				4°C (fridge)	Microbiology

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ASOT	see ASO									
ASPERGILLUS (IgE)	see RAST									
Aspergillus Precipitins (antibodies)		blood	Plain Clot (Red top)	Referred	Referred	Immunology, William Harvey, Ashford	90% in 2 weeks		4°C (fridge)	Microbiology
Aspergillus antigen (Galactomannan)		blood	Plain Clot (Red top)	Referred	Referred	Bristol	90% in 4 working days		4°C fridge	Microbiology
AST (Aspartate transaminase)		blood	Gel Clot (Gold top)	4h	24h			3d	no	Blood Science - Chem
Avian precipitins		blood	Plain Clot (Red top)	Referred	Referred	Viapath at King's	90% in 16 working days		4°C fridge	Microbiology

B

TEST	Collection requirement/ Comments	Specimen Type	Container or blood tube	Hospital Turnaround time	GP Turnaround time	Referral centre (if not MTW)	Referred Turnaround time	Time Limit for requesting as extra	Can sample be stored overnight ?	Request Form type/Section
B12	see Folate (serum) & Vitamin B12									
B2MIC (Beta 2 Microglobulin)	Not recommended for screening. Recommended to monitor diagnosed myeloma, leukemia and lymphoma.	blood	Gel Clot (Gold top)	5 days	5 days	Maidstone		3 d		Blood Science - Chem
Basal Ganglia Ab's	Paediatric samples must be red top		Gel Clot (Gold top)			William Harvey, Ashford	7 weeks	7 days if no immunology already requested, 6 weeks if additional immunology test		Blood Science - Chem

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beta-D Glucan	Needs to be tested within 48hrs of collection. Do not take the sample on a Friday or Saturday	blood	Plain clot (red top)	Referred	Referred	Bristol	90% in 4 working days		no	Microbiology
Beta Hydroxybutyrate	Paired glucose sample needed for interpretation. Send sample immediately to Biochemistry for processing.	blood	Gel Clot (Gold top)	Referred	Referred	Guildford (RSCH)	20 d	not available	no	Blood Science - Chem
Bicarbonate	Only available after requesting clinician has pre-arranged with Biochemistry	Contact Lab								Blood Science - Chem
Bile Acids	Cholestasis of pregnancy. Only indicated weekly as agreed with MTW Obstetrics & Gynaecology department	blood	Gel Clot (Gold top)	3 days	3 days	TWH		3 d	no	Blood Science - Chem
Bilharzia (Schistosomiasis)		Terminal Urine	Plain 20mL Universal (white top)	Microscopy Same day	Microscopy Same day				no	Microbiology
Bilirubin- conjugated (Paediatrics)	When being collected into a paediatric bottle	blood	Lithium Heparin (Green Top)	24 h	3 days	TWH		3d	no	Blood Science - Chem
Bilirubin- Conjugated		blood	Gel Clot (Gold top)	24 h	3 days	TWH		3d	no	Blood Science - Chem
Bilirubin (Total) (Paediatrics)	When being collected into a paediatric bottle	blood	Lithium Heparin (Green Top)	4h	24h			3d	no	Blood Science - Chem
Bilirubin (Total Serum)		blood	Gel Clot (Gold top)	4h	24h			3d	no	Blood Science - Chem
Biotinidase	Paediatric only. Please state clinical indication	blood	Lithium Heparin (Green Top)	Referred	Referred	St Thomas WellChild Lab	34 d	3 d	no	Blood Science - Chem
BJP (Bence Jones Protein)	Early morning urine. Reporting may be delayed if further investigation is needed e.g. immunofixation	urine	Plain 20mL Universal (white top) or monovette	5 days	5 days	TWH		3d	no	Blood Science - Chem


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BK/JC virus DNA		Blood, urine or CSF	EDTA (Purple top)/plain 20mL Universal (white top)	Referred	Referred	Micropathology Ltd	90% in 3 working days		4°C fridge	Microbiology
Blood Cultures MC&s	Send directly to lab during normal hours. Out of hours leave a room temperature – transport to lab as soon as possible for 9am	blood	Blood culture kit- See instruction sheet	Cultures are incubated for at least five days. Significant results are telephoned as soon as possible.	Contact Laboratory for advice				Room Temperature	Microbiology
Blood Grouping & Antibody screen		blood	Xmatch EDTA (Pink top)	Next working day					4°C (fridge)	Transfusion
BNP (Brain Natriuretic Peptide)	see Pro BNP									
Bordetella	See Pertussis									
Bronchial brush samples for cytology	Do not allow to air dry. Include site of brush sample on request form and slide (e.g. left lower lobe)	Bronchial brush samples	Alcohol-fixed slides + slide transport container	within 1 week (unless marked urgent)					4°C (fridge)	Cell Path
Bronchial wash for cytology	Do not attach pre-printed label over the clear section of the container	Bronchial wash	Plain 20mL Universal (white top)	within 1 week					4°C (fridge)	Cell Path
Bronchial Washing – Microbiology	Transport to laboratory on same day	Bronchial washing	60ml (white top)	90% in 3 days	NA			2 days	4°C (fridge)	Microbiology
Brucella serology		blood	Plain clot (red top)	Referred	Referred	Liverpool	Not published		4°C fridge	Microbiology

C

TEST	Collection requirement/ Comments	Specimen Type	Container or blood tube	Hospital Turnaround time	GP Turnaround time	Referral centre (if not MTW)	Referred Turnaround d time	Time Limit for requesting as extra	Can sample be stored overnight ?	Request Form type/Section
C1-esterase inhibitor (Total)	Pembury site please take separate form and sample for forwarding to Maidstone biochemistry	blood	Plain Clot (red top)	Referred	Referred	St Georges	14 d	not available	no	Blood Science – Chem
C1Q antibodies	Paediatric samples must be red top	blood	Gel Clot (Gold top)			William Harvey, Ashford	7 weeks	7 days if no immunology already requested, 6 weeks if additional immunology test		Blood Science – Immunology
Ca125	Not recommended for screening. May be grossly raised in ascites of any cause. Only recommended for the serial monitoring of diagnosed tumours (ovary) or pre-op.	blood	Gel Clot (Gold top)	3 days	3 days	Maidstone		3d	no	Blood Science – Chem
Ca15-3	Not recommended for screening. Only recommended to monitor known cases of Ca breast. Note also increased in benign breast disease.	Blood	Gel Clot (Gold top)	3 days	3 days	Maidstone		3d	no	Blood Science – Chem
Ca19-9	Not recommended for screening. To monitor known cases of Ca pancreas / colon (rarely ovary), colorectal cancer. Note also increased in cholestasis.	Blood	Gel Clot (Gold top)	3 days	3 days	Maidstone		3d	no	Blood Science – Chem
Caeruloplasmin		blood	Gel Clot (Gold top)	Referred	Referred	Birmingham City	16 d	not available	no	Blood Science – Chem
Calcitonin	Send sample immediately to Biochemistry for processing within 10 mins	blood	Gel Clot (Gold top)	Referred	test not available	Charing Cross	27 d	not available	no	Blood Science – Chem
Calcium (24hr Urine)		24 hr urine	5L plain container	24 h	24 h			not available	no	Blood Science – Chem

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Calcium + Albumin (Paediatrics)	When being collected into a paediatric bottle	blood	Lithium Heparin (green top)	4h	24h			3d	no	Blood Science – Chem
Calcium + Albumin (Serum Adults)	Avoid using a tourniquet when taking the sample.	Blood	Gel Clot (Gold top)	4h	24h			3d	no	Blood Science – Chem
Calprotectin	See Faecal Calprotectin									
Candida serology		blood	Plain clot (red top)	Referred	Referred	Bristol	5 working days		4°C fridge	Microbiology
Carbamazepine	(CBZ: Tegretol, Novartis) Please state dosage and time of last dose. Trough (pre dose) sample recommended.	Blood	Plain Clot (red top)	3 days	3 days	MS		3d	no	Blood Science – Chem
Carboxyhaemoglobin	Samples for carboxyhaemoglobin are no longer being received in the laboratory and patients must go to A&E									
Cardiac	see Creatine Kinase									
Cardiolipin Antibodies	see Anti-Cardiolipins									
Cat Scratch PCR (Bartonella genus)	Must Contact Consultant Microbiologist for advice	Blood or Tissue	EDTA (Purple top) /plain 20mL Universal (white top)	Referred	Referred	Micropathology	4 working days		4°C fridge	Microbiology
Catecholamines (Urine Adrenaline, Noradrenaline and Dopamine)	Helpful in the diagnosis of pheochromocytoma (intra-adrenal), paraganglioma (extra-adrenal) and neuroblastoma. Please state all medication.	24 hr urine	5L Acid Container			Kings College	14d	5 d	no	Blood Science – Chem
CCP Antibodies (Cyclic Citrullinated Peptide antibody)	Paediatric samples must be red top		Gel Clot (Gold top)			William Harvey, Ashford	7 weeks	7 days if no immunology already requested, 6 weeks if additional		Blood Science – Immunology

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								immunology test		
CD3/ CD4/CD8 Count (Immune monitoring)	Available Mon-Thur only	blood	EDTA (Purple top)	7 days	7 days			24 hrs	4°C (fridge)	Blood Science – Haem
C.difficile toxin	see FAECES - Clostridium difficile toxin A+B									
CEA (Carcinoembryonic Antigen)	Not recommended for screening. Only recommended for serial monitoring of diagnosed tumour, or pre-op Ca GI tract incl. Pancreas (rarely ovarian) Colorectal.	Blood	Gel Clot (Gold top)	3 days	3 days	Maidstone		3d	no	Blood Science – Chem
Cell Markers	See Immunophenotyping									
Childhood vaccine antibody levels (Hib/pneumococcal)		blood	Plain clot (red top)	Referred	Referred	Churchill Hospital Oxford	9 working days		4°C (fridge)	Microbiology
Chlamydia – genital	see special instructions	Swab	Kit provided (Yellow cap)	95% in 7 working days	95% in 7 working days			not available	room temp	Microbiology
Chlamydia – eye	see special instructions	Swab	Kit provided (Yellow cap)	95% in 7 working days	95% in 7 working days			not available	room temp	Microbiology
Chlamydia Urine		Urine	plain 20mL Universal (white top)	95% in 7 working days	95% in 7 working days			not available	4°C (fridge)	Microbiology
Chlamydia serology		blood	Plain clot (red top)	Referred	Referred	Viapath	90% in 16 working days	1 year	4°C fridge	Microbiology
Chlamydia psittaci PCR	Must Contact Consultant Microbiologist for advice	BAL (Bronchial wash) /Nasophary ngeal swab	plain 20mL Universal (white top) / Viral transport medium	Referred	Referred	Micropathology	90% in 4 working days		4°C fridge	Microbiology
Chloramphenicol Levels	Pre & post levels	blood	Plain clot (red top)	Referred	Referred	Bristol	90% Within 3 working days		no	Microbiology

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Chloride (Serum)		blood	Gel Clot (Gold top)	4 h	24 h			3 d	no	Blood Science - Chem
Cholesterol (Total)	Also see Lipids	blood	Gel Clot (Gold top)	4 h	24h			3d	no	Blood Science - Chem
Cholinesterase (serum)	Pseudo choline esterase (Scoline Apnoea/ Suxamethonium sensitivity). Please provide relevant full clinical details.	blood	Gel Clot (Gold top)	Referred	Referred	Lewisham	30 d	not available	no	Blood Science - Chem
Chromogranin A+B	If requested alone patient does not need to fast, however if also part of gut hormone profile then patient does need to fasting. Send sample immediately to Biochemistry for processing within 10 mins.	blood	EDTA (Purple top)	Referred	not available	Charing Cross	21 d	not available	no	Blood Science - Chem
Chromosomes	Genetic Studies/ Karyotyping. Pathology reception will send on requestor's behalf, must reach lab by 11am with the appropriate GSTS genetic paperwork. Samples courier to GSTS weekly (usually Wednesday)	blood	Contact Guy's laboratory directly.							Blood Science - Chem plus GSTS request form  MF-G-Requestform 0.docx
Citrate (24h urine)	Please state clinical indication	24 hr urine	5L Acid Container	Referred	Referred	Brighton	21d	not available	no	Blood Science - Chem
CK (Creatine Kinase) Paediatrics	When being collected into a paediatric bottle	blood	Lithium Heparin (green top)	4 h	24h			3d	no	Blood Science - Chem
CK (Creatine Kinase) Adults		blood	Gel Clot (Gold top)	4 h	24h			3d	no	Blood Science - Chem
Clostridium difficile toxin	See C.difficile toxin									
Clotting Factor	Only stable for 4 hours. Send	blood	Citrate (Blue)			Kent &	1 month	within 4 hrs of	no	Blood Science -

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Assays	to lab straight after venepuncture (patient only to be bled in the hospital if this test is required)		top			Canterbury Hospital		venepuncture		Haem
Clotting Screen	Includes APTT and PT (do not request for patients on anticoagulants) Only stable for 4 hours. Send to lab ASAP	blood	Citrate (blue top)	4 hrs	24 hrs	-	-		No	Blood Science - Haem
CJD	Only on advice of National CJD Research & Surveillance Unit	CSF	plain 20mL Universal (white top)	Referred	Referred	National CJD Research & Surveillance Unit, Edingburgh	NA		no	Microbiology
CMV	See Cytomeglavirus									
Cobalt and Chromium	MTW Orthopaedics requests only	blood	Trace element bottle (Royal Blue top)	Referred	NA	Birmingham City Toxicology		not available	no	Blood Science - Chem
Coccidioides / Histoplasma serology	Contact Consultant Microbiologist for advice	blood	Plain clot (red top)	Referred	Referred	Bristol	Not published		4°C (fridge)	Microbiology
Coeliac Screen (Child)	Paediatric samples must be red top	blood	Gel Clot (Gold top)			William Harvey, Ashford	2 weeks	7 days if no immunology already requested, 6 weeks if additional immunology test	room temp	Blood Science - Immunology
Coeliac Screen (Adult)		blood	Gel Clot (Gold top)			William Harvey, Ashford	2 weeks	7 days if no immunology already requested, 6 weeks if additional	room temp	Blood Science - Immunology

TEST	Collection requirement/ Comments	Specimen Type	Container or blood tube	Hospital Turnaround time	GP Turnaround time	Referral centre (if not MTW)	Referred Turnaround time	Time Limit for requesting as extra	Can sample be stored overnight ?	Request Form type/Section
								immunology test		
Cold Agglutinins	Test withdrawn	blood								
Compatibility testing (Cross match)	Indicate need for irradiated and/or CMV- blood as directed by Transfusion Policy. Requests should be made preferably 2 days before but at the very latest by 15:00 the day before blood products required		Xmatch EDTA (Pink top)					7 days if patient not transfused more than 48 hours earlier. Samples taken at Pre- admission clinics are kept for 6 weeks unless patient has been transfused in the last 3 months. If this date changes, the laboratory must be informed	4°C (fridge)	Transfusion
Complement (C3+ C4)	Paediatric samples must be red top	blood	Gel Clot (Gold top)			William Harvey, Ashford	2 weeks	7 days if no immunology already requested, 6 weeks if additional immunology test	room temp	Blood Science - Immunology
Copper	and caeruloplasmin. Please state clinical indication	blood	Gel Clot (Gold top)	Referred	Referred	Birmingham City - Biochemistry and Toxicology	17 d	not available	no	Blood Science - Chem
Copper (24h Urine)	Special acid washed container from biochemistry by prior	24 hr urine	5L Acid Wash	Referred	Referred	Kings College	20 d	not available	no	Blood Science - Chem

TEST	Collection requirement/ Comments	Specimen Type	Container or blood tube	Hospital Turnaround time	GP Turnaround time	Referral centre (if not MTW)	Referred Turnaround time	Time Limit for requesting as extra	Can sample be stored overnight ?	Request Form type/Section
	arrangement. Usually part of penicillamine challenge - please contact biochemistry for advice		Container							
Corneal scrape (MC&S)	Inform lab. Transport directly to lab	Corneal scrape	Direct plates (supplied by Lab.) slide	Microscopy results available same day. Culture results can take up to 10 days	test not available			not available	no	Microbiology
Cortisol (serum)	9am sample recommended. Random samples are difficult to interpret.	blood	Plain Clot (red top)	3 days	3 days	TWH		not available	no	Blood Science - Chem
Cortisol (24h Urine)	Only available after requesting clinician has pre-arranged with Biochemistry	24 hr urine	5L plain container	Referred	Referred	Kings College	16 d	not available	no	Blood Science - Chem
Covid 19	See SARS-Cov2									
Coxiella serology (Q-Fever) Serology	Contact Consultant Microbiologist for advice	Blood or BAL	Plain clot (red top)	Referred	Referred	Porton Down	90 % in 12 working days		4°C (fridge)	Microbiology
Coxiella serology (Q-Fever) PCR	Contact Consultant Microbiologist for advice	BAL or Sputum or Nasopharyngeal swab	plain 20mL Universal /60ml sputum / Viral transport	Referred	Referred	Micropathology	90% in 3 working days		4°C (fridge)	Microbiology
CPE Carb.prod. Enterobac. Screen		Faeces or Rectal swab (must have visible faeces)	Faeces (blue top universal) or Black transport swab	90% within 2 working days	90% within 2 working days				4°C fridge	Microbiology
C-peptide	Plus Insulin if indicated. Paired glucose sample needed for interpretation. Send sample immediately to Biochemistry for processing.	blood	Gel Clot (Gold top) + Fluoride oxalate (Grey top)	Referred	Referred	Guildford (RSCH)	42 d	not available		Blood Science - Chem

TEST	Collection requirement/ Comments	Specimen Type	Container or blood tube	Hospital Turnaround time	GP Turnaround time	Referral centre (if not MTW)	Referred Turnaround time	Time Limit for requesting as extra	Can sample be stored overnight ?	Request Form type/Section
Creatinine (24hr Urine)	Please also send Gel Clot (Gold top) if Creatinine Clearance Calculation required	24 hr urine	5L plain container	24 h	24 h			3 d	no	Blood Science - Chem
Creatinine (Serum)	& estimated Glomerular Filtration Rate (eGFR)	blood	Gel Clot (Gold top)	4 h	24h			3d	no	Blood Science - Chem
CRP (C-Reactive Protein) (Paediatrics)	When being collected into a paediatric bottle	blood	Lithium Heparin (green top)	4 h	24h					Blood Science - Chem
CRP (C-Reactive Protein) (Adults)		blood	Gel Clot (Gold top)	4 h	24h			3d	no	Blood Science - Chem
Cryoglobulin/ Cryofibrinogen	Not Currently Available. Please Contact Biochemistry									Blood Science - Chem
Crystals- Joint Fluids		Joint fluid	Plain 20mL Universal (white top)	24h	24h				4oC (fridge)	Microbiology
Cryptococcal antigen		Blood/CS F	Plain clot (red top)/ Plain 20mL Universal (white top)	Referred	Referred	William Harvey, Ashford	6 days		4oC (fridge)	Microbiology
CSF – Microbiology C&S	Telephone laboratory once taken. Transport to the lab y.ASAP Do NOT send via vacuum tube	CSF tubes 1&3	Plain 20mL Universal (white top)	Microscopy: same day. Culture results: up to two days.	test not available	NA	NA		No	Microbiology
CSF – Microbiology PCR (viral)	Telephone laboratory once taken. Transport to the lab ASAP. Do NOT send via vacuum tube	CSF tubes 2&3	Plain 20mL Universal (white top)	Referred	test not available	Micropatholog y Ltd	90% in 4 working days		4oC (fridge)	Microbiology
CSF for cytology	Send immediately to Cytology Laboratory		Plain 20mL Universal (white top)	within 2 days					no	Cell Path
Cyclosporin A	Please state dosage and time of last dose. Referral hospital dependent on Rx/Txp	blood	EDTA (Purple top)	Referred	Referred	Kent & Cant/ Kings College	19 d	not applicable	no	Blood Science - Chem
Cyst Fluid	See Fluids for cytology									
Cytomegalovirus (CMV) antibody IgG		blood	Plain Clot (Red top)	90% in 5 working days	90% in 5 working days				4oC (fridge)	Microbiology

TEST	Collection requirement/ Comments	Specimen Type	Container or blood tube	Hospital Turnaround time	GP Turnaround time	Referral centre (if not MTW)	Referred Turnaround d time	Time Limit for requesting as extra	Can sample be stored overnight ?	Request Form type/Section
Cytomegalovirus (CMV) antibody IgM		blood	Plain Clot (Red top)	90% in 3 working days	90% in 3 working days				4oC (fridge)	Microbiology
Cytomegalovirus (CMV) PCR		blood	EDTA (purple top)	Referred	Referred	Micropathology Ltd (Viapath for Kings Liver Transplant patients)	90% in 3 working days (90% in 4 working days)		4oC (fridge)	Microbiology
Cytomegalovirus (CMV) PCR		urine	Plain universal	Referred	Referred	Micropathology	90% in 3 working days		4oC (fridge)	Microbiology
Cytology – diagnostic fluids	See Fluids for cytology									

D

TEST	Collection requirement/ Comments	Specimen Type	Container or blood tube	Hospital Turnaround time	GP Turnaround time	Referral centre (if not MTW)	Referred Turnaround time	Time Limit for requesting as extra	Can sample be stored overnight ?	Request Form type/Section
D-Dimers	Only stable for 4 hours. Send to lab ASAP.	blood	Citrate (Blue top)	4 hr	24 hours			within 2-3 hrs of venepuncture	no	Blood Science - Haem
Dengue/ Rickettsia		blood	Plain clot (red top)	Referred	Referred	Porton Down	90% in 6 working days		4oC (fridge)	Microbiology
DHEA-sulphate	Please state clinical indication	blood	Plain Clot (red top)	Referred	Referred	Kings	19d	not available	no	Blood Science - Chem
Digoxin	Must be taken 6-8 hours after the dose. Please state dosage and time of last dose.	blood	Gel Clot (Gold top)	4 h	24h			2 d	no	Blood Science - Chem
Diphtheria antibodies		blood	Plain clot (red top)	Referred	Referred	Colindale	905 in 24 working days		4oC (fridge)	Microbiology
Diphtheria culture	MUST state relevant clinical details & foreign travel on request form	Throat swab	Black transport swab	90% within 3 days	90% within 3 days					

TEST	Collection requirement/ Comments	Specimen Type	Container or blood tube	Hospital Turnaround time	GP Turnaround time	Referral centre (if not MTW)	Referred Turnaround time	Time Limit for requesting as extra	Can sample be stored overnight ?	Request Form type/Section
Direct Antiglobulin test (DAT)		blood	Xmatch EDTA (Pink top) or EDTA (Purple top)	24 hrs					4°C (fridge)	Transfusion
Dopamine/creatinine (Random Urine)	A random urine is acceptable for dopamine/creatinine ratio if a 24 hour collection is not feasible e.g. young children.	urine	Plain 20mL Universal (white top)	14d	14d	TWH			4°C (fridge)	Blood Science - Chem
Double Stranded DNA Antibodies	Reflex test following ENA. Paediatric samples must be red top	blood	Gel Clot (Gold top)			William Harvey, Ashford	3 weeks	7 days if no immunology already requested, 6 weeks if additional immunology test	room temp	Blood Science - Immunology
Drug Screen (Drugs of abuse)	See urine Toxicology.									

E



TEST	Collection requirement/ Comments	Specimen Type	Container or blood tube	Hospital Turnaround time	GP Turnaround time	Referral centre (if not MTW)	Referred Turnaround time	Time Limit for requesting as extra	Can sample be stored overnight ?	Request Form type/Section
eGFR (Estimated Glomerular Filtration Rate)		blood	Gel Clot (Gold top)	4 hr	24 h			3 d	room temp	Blood Science - Chem
ENA (Extractable Nuclear Antigen)	Reflex test following ANA, includes Ro SSA, La SSB, Sm, J0-1, Scl-70. Paediatric samples must be red top	blood	Gel Clot (Gold top)			William Harvey, Ashford	2 weeks	7 days if no immunology already requested, 6 weeks if additional	room temp	Blood Science - Immunology

TEST	Collection requirement/ Comments	Specimen Type	Container or blood tube	Hospital Turnaround time	GP Turnaround time	Referral centre (if not MTW)	Referred Turnaround time	Time Limit for requesting as extra	Can sample be stored overnight?	Request Form type/Section
								immunology test		
ENA ID SCREEN	Reflex test following ENA. Paediatric samples must be red top	blood	Gel Clot (Gold top)		William Harvey, Ashford	7 weeks	7 days if no immunology already requested, 6 weeks if additional immunology test	room temp	Blood Science - Immunology	
Endomysial Ab	Reflex test following Coeliac Screen. Paediatric samples must be red top	blood	Gel Clot (Gold top)		William Harvey, Ashford	2 weeks	7 days if no immunology already requested, 6 weeks if additional immunology test	room temp	Blood Science - Immunology	
EBV PCR (Epstein Barr Virus)		blood	EDTA (Purple top)	Referred	Referred	Micropathology Ltd (Viapath for Kings Liver Transplant patients)	90% in 3 working days (90% in 4 working days)		4°C (fridge)	Microbiology
EBV IgM (Epstein Barr Virus)		blood	Plain Clot (Red top)	90% in 2 working days	90% in 2 working days				4°C (fridge)	Microbiology
Enterobius vermicularis		Sellotape slide	Plain white topped universal	1 working day	1 working day				Room temp	Microbiology
Enterovirus RNA PCR	CSF- see CSF virology	Faeces or throat viral swab	Plain white topped universal or green top viral swab	Referred	Referred	Micropathology Ltd	90% in 3 working days		Viral swab-room temp	Microbiology

TEST	Collection requirement/ Comments	Specimen Type	Container or blood tube	Hospital Turnaround time	GP Turnaround time	Referral centre (if not MTW)	Referred Turnaround time	Time Limit for requesting as extra	Can sample be stored overnight ?	Request Form type/Section
ESR		blood	EDTA (Purple top)	4 hr	24 hrs			8 hrs from venepuncture	4°C (fridge)	Blood Science - Haem
Ethanol	Only available in exceptional circumstances. Patients presenting in A&E departments with head injuries or after discussion with laboratory	blood	Fluoride oxalate (Grey top)	4 h	test not available			24 h	no	Blood Science - Chem
Ethosuximide	Please state dosage and time of last dose	blood	Plain Clot (red top)	Referred	Referred	Cardiff Toxicology Labs.	10d	not available	no	Blood Science - Chem

F

TEST	Collection requirement/ Comments	Specimen Type	Container or blood tube	Hospital Turnaround time	GP Turnaround time	Referral centre (if not MTW)	Referred Turnaround time	Time Limit for requesting as extra	Can sample be stored overnight ?	Request Form type/Section
Faecal Elastase	Random Sample, minimum 100 mg	faeces	Faeces 30 mL universal (blue top)	Referred	Referred	Birmingham City	13 d	not available	4°C (fridge)	Blood Science - Chem
Faecal Calprotectin	Random Sample, minimum 100 mg. Please ask patient to write the collection date on the specimen bottle and send to the laboratory on the day of collection.	faeces	Faeces 30 mL universal (blue top)	2 weeks	2 weeks			not available	4°C (fridge)	Blood Science - Chem
FAECES - Clostridium difficile test	Collect specimen into disposable clean dry container without urine (if possible). Use blue scoop in lid of container to transfer at least a walnut sized piece into specimen pot	Faeces	Faeces 30mL universal (blue top)	95% in 24 hours	95% in 24 hours	PHE Leeds for ribotyping	16 working days	1 year for positives (typing only)	4°C (fridge)	Microbiology

TEST	Collection requirement/ Comments	Specimen Type	Container or blood tube	Hospital Turnaround time	GP Turnaround time	Referral centre (if not MTW)	Referred Turnaround time	Time Limit for requesting as extra	Can sample be stored overnight ?	Request Form type/Section
Faecal Pathogens PCR	Collect specimen into disposable clean dry container without urine (if possible). Use blue scoop in lid of container to transfer at least a walnut sized piece into specimen pot	Faeces	Faeces 30mL universal (blue top)	90% in 24 hours	90% in 24 hours	Colindale for typing	90% in 19 working days		4°C (fridge)	Microbiology
FAECES OTHER parasites, virology (rotavirus, adenovirus, norovirus)	Collect specimen into disposable clean dry container without urine (if possible). Use blue scoop in lid of container to transfer at least a walnut sized piece into specimen pot	Faeces	Faeces 30mL universal (blue top)	Parasites 90% in 2 working days. Virology 90% in 1-2 days	Parasites 90% in 2 working days. Virology 90% in 1-2 days				4°C (fridge)	Microbiology
Faecal Occult blood (FOB)	Test withdrawn. For queries contact Biochemistry									
Farmers Lung		blood	Plain clot (red top)	Referred	Referred	Bristol	90% in 7 working days			Microbiology
Ferritin	As part of test rationalisation iron studies should be monitored via ferritin alone.	blood	Gel Clot (Gold top)	24h	24h			3d	no	Blood Science - Chem
Filarial antibodies		blood	Plain clot (red top)	Referred	Referred	HTD	90% in 12 working days			Microbiology
Fine needle aspirate (FNA) for cytology	Alcohol-fixed slides: Fix immediately by fixation spray. See 	breast, lymph node, thyroid, parotid, biliary etc.	Alcohol-fixed slides + slide transport container	within 1 week					room temp	Cell Path
Fine needle aspirate (FNA) for cytology	Air dried slides. Slides must be quickly and completely dried before placing in slide transport container.  User guide for preparation of direct		Air Dried slides + slide transport container	within 1 week					room temp	Cell Path

TEST	Collection requirement/ Comments	Specimen Type	Container or blood tube	Hospital Turnaround time	GP Turnaround time	Referral centre (if not MTW)	Referred Turnaround time	Time Limit for requesting as extra	Can sample be stored overnight ?	Request Form type/Section
Fine needle aspirate (FNA) for cytology - Needle rinse	Wash needle in cytospin collection fluid	thyroid,	Cytospin collection fluid	within 1 week					Room temp	Cell Path
Fine needle aspirate (FNA) for cytology – endoscopic brushings	Place unsheathed brush tip in cytospin collection fluid. Dry brushes CANNOT be accepted.		Cytospin collection fluid	within 1 week					room temp	Cell Path
Flu (A+B)	Nose/ throat swab	Viral swab (green top or red in-house top)		24 h	24 h					
Fluids for cytology		ascitic, pleural, cyst aspirates, pericardial, peritoneal etc.	Plain 20mL Universal (white top)	within 1 week					4°C (fridge)	Cell Path
Fluids (MC&S) excluding CSF	If required urgently, please contact the laboratory. Transport to the laboratory within one day	ascitic, joint, pleural, cyst aspirates etc.	Plain 20mL Universal (white top)	Microscopy: within 1 working day. Culture results:up to 10 days depending on sample	Microscopy: within 1 working day. Culture results:up to 10 days depending on sample				4°C (fridge)	Microbiology
FOB	see Faecal Occult Blood									
Folate (red cell)	See Red Cell Folate									
Folate (serum) & Vitamin B12		blood	Plain Clot (Red top)	7 days	7 days			not available	4°C (fridge)	Blood Science - Haem
Fructosamine	Only available for patients with Hb variants.	blood	Gel Clot (Gold top)	Referred	Referred	Birmingham City	25 d	not available	no	Blood Science - Chem
FSH (Follicular Stimulating Hormone)	Female patients – day 1 -5 if regular cycles. Please state LMP.	blood	Gel Clot (Gold top)	3 days	3 days	MS		3d	no	Blood Science - Chem

TEST	Collection requirement/ Comments	Specimen Type	Container or blood tube	Hospital Turnaround time	GP Turnaround time	Referral centre (if not MTW)	Referred Turnaround time	Time Limit for requesting as extra	Can sample be stored overnight ?	Request Form type/Section
FT3 (Free tri iodothyronine)	FT3 tested if indicated by clinical details and/or depending on TSH level.	blood	Gel Clot (Gold top)	3 days	3 days	MS		3d	no	Blood Science - Chem
FT4 (Free Thyroxine)	FT4 tested if indicated by clinical details and/or depending on TSH level.	blood	Gel Clot (Gold top)	3 days	3 days			3d	no	Blood Science - Chem
Full Blood Count (FBC)		blood	EDTA (Purple top)	Urgent – 1 hr Routine – 4 hrs	24 hrs			8 hrs	4°C (fridge)	Blood Science - Haem
Fungi (Mycology) (Dermatophytes)	click heading above for instructions on sample collection	Skin, Hair or Nail clippings	Dermapak or Plain 20mL Universal (white top)	Microscopy results within 4 days. Culture results may take up to four weeks.	Microscopy results 4 days. Culture results may take up to four weeks.	Bristol – for difficult isolates	90% in 7-14 working days		room temp	Microbiology

G

TEST	Collection requirement/ Comments	Specime n Type	Container or blood tube	Hospital Turnaround time	GP Turnaround time	Referral centre (if not MTW)	Referred Turnaround time	Time Limit for requesting as extra	Can sample be stored overnight ?	Request Form type/Section
Gabapentin	Please state dosage and time of last dose.	blood	Plain Clot (red top)	Referred	Referred	KINGS	21 d	not available	no	Blood Science - Chem
GAD 2 (Glutamic acid decarboxylase) Antibodies	Paediatric samples must be red top		Gel Clot (Gold top)			William Harvey, Ashford	7 weeks	7 days if no immunology already requested, 6 weeks if additional immunology test	room temp	Blood Science - Immunology
Galactamannan	See Aspergillus antigen									

TEST	Collection requirement/ Comments	Specimen Type	Container or blood tube	Hospital Turnaround time	GP Turnaround time	Referral centre (if not MTW)	Referred Turnaround time	Time Limit for requesting as extra	Can sample be stored overnight ?	Request Form type/Section
Galactose-1-Phosphate uridylyltransferase	2x Paediatric Green Top required. Please collect sample Mon- Wed (to arrive at GSTS lab Mon- Thurs)	blood	2 x Lithium Heparin (Green Top)	Referred	Referred	St Thomas Genetic Enzyme Lab	27 d	not available	no	Blood Science - Chem
Ganciclovir level		blood	Plain Clot (red top)	Referred	Referred	Bristol	Within 3 working days			Microbiology
Ganglioside Antibodies Screen	Paediatric samples must be red top	blood	Gel Clot (Gold top)			William Harvey, Ashford	7 weeks	7 days if no immunology already requested, 6 weeks if additional immunology test	room temp	Blood Science - Immunology
Ganglioside Antibodies profile	Paediatric samples must be red top	blood	Gel Clot (Gold top)			William Harvey, Ashford	7 weeks	7 days if no immunology already requested, 6 weeks if additional immunology test	room temp	Blood Science - Immunology
Gastric Parietal Cell Antibody		blood	Gel Clot (Gold top)			William Harvey, Ashford	3 days	7 days if no immunology already requested, 6 weeks if additional immunology test	room temp	Blood Science - Immunology
Gastrin	See Gut Hormones									
GBM (Glomerular Basement Membrane) Antibodies	Can be done urgently by arrangement with lab. Initially please contact Maidstone Biochemistry. Paediatric	blood	Gel Clot (Gold top)			William Harvey, Ashford	2 weeks	7 days if no immunology already requested, 6 weeks if additional immunology test	room temp	Blood Science - Immunology

TEST	Collection requirement/ Comments	Specimen Type	Container or blood tube	Hospital Turnaround time	GP Turnaround time	Referral centre (if not MTW)	Referred Turnaround time	Time Limit for requesting as extra	Can sample be stored overnight?	Request Form type/Section
	samples must be red top							weeks if additional immunology test		
Genital Ulcer Screen PCR (HSV, H.ducreyi & Syphilis)	Refer patient to GUM clinic	Viral swab or fluid	Viral transport medium. Kit provided	Referred	Referred	Micropathology	90% in 4 working days			Microbiology
Gentamicin (paediatric)	When being collected into a paediatric bottle	blood	Lithium Heparin (green top)	4 h	not available			3d	no	Blood Science - Chem
Gentamicin (adult & older children)	Once daily is preferred regime. Take 18-24 hours post dose (state time collected). Pre dose Gentamicin - Take just before the dose Post dose Gentamicin - Take 1 hour after the IV dose. Please refer to Trust Policy	blood	Gel Clot (Gold top)	4 h	not available			3d	no	Blood Science - Chem
GGT (Gamma-glutamyl transferase)		blood	Gel Clot (Gold top)	4 h	24 h			3d	no	Blood Science - Chem
GH (Growth Hormone)	Patient must fast for 14 hours.	blood	Gel Clot (Gold top)	Referred	Referred	WHH	17 d	not available	no	Blood Science - Chem
Glandular Fever Screening Test	Also known as Paul Bunnell Screening test	blood	EDTA (Purple top)	urgent: 4 h. Otherwise 24 hours	48 hours				4°C (fridge)	Blood Science - Haem
Glucose (CSF)	Do NOT use Vacuum tube (pod) to transport CSF samples	CSF	Fluoride oxalate (Grey top)	4 h	not available			not available	no	Blood Science - Chem
Glucose (Fluid)	Do NOT use Vacuum tube (pod) to transport fluid samples	fluid	Fluoride oxalate (Grey top)	4 h	not available			not available	no	Blood Science - Chem
Glucose (Plasma)	Random or Fasting (minimum 12 hrs water only)	blood	Fluoride oxalate (Grey top)	4 h	24 h			not available	no	Blood Science - Chem

TEST	Collection requirement/ Comments	Specimen Type	Container or blood tube	Hospital Turnaround time	GP Turnaround time	Referral centre (if not MTW)	Referred Turnaround time	Time Limit for requesting as extra	Can sample be stored overnight ?	Request Form type/Section
Glucose-6-Phosphate Dehydrogenase (G6PD)		blood	EDTA (Purple top)	1 day (if urgent) – referred test		Kings College hospital	7 days	Not available	no	Blood Science - Haem
Glucose Tolerance test	Special protocol									
Glucagon	See Gut Hormones									
GM1 Antibodies	Paediatric samples must be red top	blood	Gel Clot (Gold top)				7 weeks	7 days if no immunology already requested, 6 weeks if additional immunology test		Blood Science - Immunology
GRE Screen		Rectal swab	Black transport swab	90% in 3 days	90% in 3 days				4°C (fridge)	Microbiology
GQ1b Antibodies	Paediatric samples must be red top	blood	Gel Clot (Gold top)				7 weeks	7 days if no immunology already requested, 6 weeks if additional immunology test		Blood Science - Immunology
Gut Hormone Screen: Chromogranin A&B, Glucagon, Gastrin, Vasoactive intestinal Polypeptide	Patient needs to fast. Send sample immediately to Biochemistry for processing within 10 mins.	blood	2x EDTA (Purple top)	Referred	not available	Charing Cross	21 d	not available	no	Blood Science - Chem

H

TEST	Collection requirement/ Comments	Specimen Type	Container or blood tube	Hospital Turnaround time	GP Turnaround time	Referral centre (if not MTW)	Referred Turnaround time	Time Limit for requesting as extra	Can sample be stored overnight ?	Request Form type/Section
Haematology (Adenovirus, CMV, EBV PCR)		blood	EDTA (Purple top)	Referred	Referred	Micropathology Ltd	90% in 3 working days		4°C (fridge)	Microbiology
Haemochromatosis (gene marker)		blood	EDTA (Purple top)			NBS H&I lab, Tooting	7 d		no	Blood Science - Haem
Haemoglobin electrophoresis (HPLC) (only for thalassaemia and Haemoglobinopathy Screening)	Only request this test to investigate Thalassaemia or Haemoglobinopathy	blood	EDTA (Purple top)	3 days	3 days		2 weeks	24 hrs	no	Blood Science - Haem
Haemophilus (Hib) Antibody level	see Childhood vaccine antibody levels (Hib/pneumococcal)									
Haptoglobin	Send sample to laboratory ASAP after venepuncture		4 mL Plain Clot (Red top)	10 days	10 days	Kings College hospital	2 weeks	-	no	Blood Science - Haem
HbA1c	HbA1c for monitoring diabetic control or for the diagnosis of diabetes mellitus.	blood	EDTA (Purple top)	3 days	3 days	MS		not available	no	Blood Science - Chem
HCG (Molar Preg)	Molar pregnancy monitoring	blood	Gel Clot (Gold top)	Referred	Referred	Charing Cross	8 d	not	no	Blood Science - Chem
HCG (Serum) (Human Chorionic Gonadotropin/ beta HCG)	Not appropriate as a first-line pregnancy test. Only recommended for query ectopic pregnancy two request 48 hrs apart	blood	Gel Clot (Gold top)	24 h	not available			3 d	4°C (fridge)	Blood Science - Chem

TEST	Collection requirement/ Comments	Specimen Type	Container or blood tube	Hospital Turnaround time	GP Turnaround time	Referral centre (if not MTW)	Referred Turnaround time	Time Limit for requesting as extra	Can sample be stored overnight ?	Request Form type/Section
HCG (Tumour Marker)	Not recommended for screening . Only recommended for Ca testes/ovary	blood	Gel Clot (Gold top)	24 h	24 h			3 d	4°C (fridge)	Blood Science - Chem
Helicobacter pylori (Antibody)	No longer available - see H pylori antigen									
Helicobacter pylori (Antigen)	Do not perform this test in patients that had a PPI in the last two weeks or antibiotics in the last four weeks as it may lead to false negative results.	faeces	Stool pot (blue top)	90% in 4 working days	90% in 4 working days				4°C (fridge)	Microbiology
Helicobacter pylori Culture & Sensitivity	MUST Contact Consultant Microbiologist	Biopsy	plain 20mL Universal (white top)	Referred	Referred	Colindale	90% in 17 working days			Microbiology
Hepatitis A IgG antibodies (immunity)	Not a funded test. Contact Microbiology if required.			test not available	test not available			1 year		Microbiology
Hepatitis A IgM (for acute infection)		blood	Plain Clot (Red top)	90% in 3 working days	90% in 3 working days	Colindale for Confirmation of positives	90% in 10 working days		4°C (fridge)	Microbiology
Hepatitis B core antibody (HBcAb)		blood	Plain Clot (Red top)	90% in 2 working days	90% in 2 working days				4°C (fridge)	Microbiology
Hepatitis B immunity check (anti-HBs)		blood	Plain Clot (Red top)	90% in 5 working days	90% in 5 working days				4°C (fridge)	Microbiology
Hepatitis B PCR viral load		blood	EDTA (Purple top)	Referred	Referred	William Harvey, Ashford	90% in 9 working days		No	Microbiology
Hepatitis B surface antigen (HBsAg)		blood	Plain Clot (Red top)	90% in 2 working days	90% in 2 working days				4°C (fridge)	Microbiology
Hep B markers		blood	Plain Clot (Red top)	Referred	Referred	William Harvey, Ashford	90% in 8 working days		4°C (fridge)	Microbiology

TEST	Collection requirement/ Comments	Specimen Type	Container or blood tube	Hospital Turnaround time	GP Turnaround time	Referral centre (if not MTW)	Referred Turnaround time	Time Limit for requesting as extra	Can sample be stored overnight ?	Request Form type/Section
Hepatitis C antibodies		blood	Plain Clot (Red top)	90% in 2 working days	90% in 2 working days	Micropathology Ltd for confirmation of positives	90% in 7 working days		4°C (fridge)	Microbiology
Hepatitis C PCR & genotype		blood	EDTA (Purple top)	Referred	Referred	Micropathology Ltd	90% in 7 working days		no	Microbiology
Hepatitis D serology		blood	Plain clot (red top)	Referred	Referred	Colindale	90% in 17 working days		4°C (fridge)	Microbiology
Hepatitis E serology		blood	Plain clot (red top)	Referred	Referred	William Harvey, Ashford	90% in 6 working days		4°C (fridge)	Microbiology
Herpes simplex virus (HSV) PCR	Transport to the lab within one day.	Viral swab	Viral transport medium. Kit provided.	Referred	Referred	William Harvey, Ashford	90% in 12 working days		4°C (fridge)	Microbiology
HSV serology		blood	Plain clot (red top)	Referred	Referred	Southampton	90% in 4 working days		4°C (fridge)	Microbiology
Heterophilic antibodies	Heterophilic antibodies can cause significant interference in any immunoassay. Please discuss with Duty Biochemist if suspected.	blood	Gel Clot (Gold top)	Referred	Referred	Please contact lab		3d	4°C (fridge)	Blood Science - Chem
Histoplasma		blood	Plain clot (red top)	Referred	Referred	Bristol	Not published		4°C (fridge)	Microbiology
HIV 1+2		blood	Plain Clot (Red top)	90% in 2 working days	90% in 2 working days	Positives:PHE Coilndale for confirmation	90% in 10 working days		4°C (fridge)	Microbiology
HIV viral load		blood	EDTA (Purple top)	90% in 7 working days	90% in 7 working days				no	Microbiology
HLA - B27	Test once only in lifetime. Samples can	blood	EDTA (Purple top)	1 week	1 week			12 hours	room temp	Blood Science - Haem

TEST	Collection requirement/ Comments	Specimen Type	Container or blood tube	Hospital Turnaround time	GP Turnaround time	Referral centre (if not MTW)	Referred Turnaround time	Time Limit for requesting as extra	Can sample be stored overnight ?	Request Form type/Section
	only be accepted Monday-Thursday.									
HLA - others	Contact Haematology consultants before sending. Samples referred to NBS laboratories.	blood	Xmatch EDTA (Pink top) or EDTA (Purple top)			NBS H&I lab. Tooting	2 - 3 weeks		room temp	Transfusion
HLA antibody screens	Contact Haematology consultants before sending. Samples referred to NBS laboratories.	blood	Plain Clot (Red top)			NBS H&I lab. Tooting	7-10 days		room temp	Transfusion
Homocysteine	Patient must be fasting. Send sample immediately to Biochemistry for processing within 10 mins.	blood	Lithium Heparin (Green Top)	Referred	not available	Brighton	21 d	not available	no	Blood Science - Chem
HTLV 1 antibody		blood	Plain clot (red clot)	Referred	Referred	William Harvey, Ashford	90% in 5 working days		4°C (fridge)	Microbiology
HVS MC&S	See swabs MC&S									Microbiology
Hydatid serology		blood	Plain clot (red top)	Referred	Referred	HTD	90% in 12 working days		4°C (fridge)	Microbiology

TEST	Collection requirement/ Comments	Specimen Type	Container or blood tube	Hospital Turnaround time	GP Turnaround time	Referral centre (if not MTW)	Referred Turnaround time	Time Limit for requesting as extra	Can sample be stored overnight ?	Request Form type/Section
IgA Endomysial Ab	Paediatric samples must be red top	blood	Gel Clot (Gold top)	Referred	Referred	William Harvey, Ashford	7 weeks	7 days if no immunology already	room temp	Blood Science - Immunology

TEST	Collection requirement/ Comments	Specimen Type	Container or blood tube	Hospital Turnaround time	GP Turnaround time	Referral centre (if not MTW)	Referred Turnaround time	Time Limit for requesting as extra	Can sample be stored overnight ?	Request Form type/Section
								requested, 6 weeks if additional immunology test		
IgG Endomysial Ab	Paediatric samples must be red top	blood	Gel Clot (Gold top)	Referred	Referred	William Harvey, Ashford	7 weeks	7 days if no immunology already requested, 6 weeks if additional immunology test	room temp	Blood Science - Immunology
IgG Insulin Ab	Paediatric samples must be red top	blood	Gel Clot (Gold top)	Referred	Referred	WHH	7 weeks	7 days if no immunology already requested, 6 weeks if additional immunology test	room temp	Blood Science - Immunology
IgE only		blood	Gel Clot (Gold top)	Referred	Referred	WHH	16 d	not available	no	Blood Science - Immunology
IGF-1 (Insulin-like Growth Factor-1)		blood	Gel Clot (Gold top)	Referred	Referred	WHH	18 d	not available	no	Blood Science - Chem
Indirect immunofluorescence (immunology)	see Pemphigus/goid Ab									
Influenza (A+B)	See Respiratory Viruses PCR									
Immunoglobulins G, A & M (adults)		blood	Gel Clot (Gold top)	3 days	3 days	TWH		3d	no	Blood Science - Chem
Immunoglobulins G,A& M (Paediatrics)	When being collected into a paediatric bottle	blood	Lithium Heparin (Green top)	3 days	3 days	TWH		3d	no	Blood Science - Chem

TEST	Collection requirement/ Comments	Specimen Type	Container or blood tube	Hospital Turnaround time	GP Turnaround time	Referral centre (if not MTW)	Referred Turnaround time	Time Limit for requesting as extra	Can sample be stored overnight ?	Request Form type/Section
Immunoglobulins Subclasses		blood	Gel Clot (Gold top)	Referred	Referred	St Georges	33 d	na	no	Blood Science - Chem
Immunophenotyping	Available Mon-Thur only	blood or bone marrow (specify if it blood or bone marrow on request)	EDTA (purple top)	4 weeks	4 weeks	HMDK King's.	4 weeks	8 hours from sample collection	room temp	Blood Science - Haem
Inhibin B		blood	Gel Clot (Gold top)	Referred	Referred	Charing Cross				Blood Science - Chem
INR (International Normalised Ratio) [Prothrombin time]	Only stable for 4 hours. Send to lab straight after venepuncture (request this test only when patients are on oral anticoagulants) refer to guidelines on pathology website	blood	Citrate (Blue top)	Urgent – 1 hr Routine – 4 hrs	1 day			within 2 -3 hrs of venepuncture	no	Blood Science - Haem
Insect for identification			Plain universal	48 h	48 h	LSHTM	Not published		No	Microbiology
Insulin	Paired Glucose sample needed for interpretation. Send sample immediately to Biochemistry for processing.	blood	Gel Clot (Gold top) + Fluoride oxalate (Grey top)	Referred	Referred	Guildford (RSCH)	20 d	not available	no	Blood Science - Chem
Intraconazole levels	Take a pre-dose sample after 7 days of treatment	blood	Plain clot (red top)	Referred	Referred	Leeds	90% in 10 days		4°C (fridge)	Microbiology
Intrinsic Factor Ab	Paediatric samples must be red top	blood	Gel Clot (Gold top)			WHH	7 weeks	7 days if no immunology already requested, 6 weeks if	room temp	Blood Science - Immunology

TEST	Collection requirement/ Comments	Specimen Type	Container or blood tube	Hospital Turnaround time	GP Turnaround time	Referral centre (if not MTW)	Referred Turnaroun d time	Time Limit for requesting as extra	Can sample be stored overnight ?	Request Form type/Section
								additional immunology test		
Iron (Fe)	If suspected of overdose, please contact lab.	blood	Gel Clot (Gold top)	48 h	48 h			3 d	no	Blood Science - Chem
Iron, Transferrin + Saturation	As part of test rationalisation iron studies should be monitored via ferritin alone. Iron/transferrin saturation remain available in exceptional circumstances depending on clinical details, inflammatory markers and FBC results.	blood	Gel Clot (Gold top)	48 h	3 days			3d	no	Blood Science - Chem
Islet Cell Antibody	Paediatric samples must be red top	blood	Gel Clot (Gold top)			WHH	4 weeks	7 days if no immunology already requested, 6 weeks if additional immunology test	room temp	Blood Science - Immunology

J

TEST	Collection requirement/ Comments	Specime n Type	Container or blood tube	Hospital Turnaround time	GP Turnaround time	Referral centre (if not MTW)	Referred Turnaround time	Time Limit for requesting as extra	Can sample be stored overnight ?	Request Form type/Section
JC/BK virus		Blood, urine or CSF	EDTA (Purple top)/plain 20mL	Referred	Referred	Micropathology Ltd	90% in 3 working days		4°C fridge	Microbiology

TEST	Collection requirement/ Comments	Specimen Type	Container or blood tube	Hospital Turnaround time	GP Turnaround time	Referral centre (if not MTW)	Referred Turnaround time	Time Limit for requesting as extra	Can sample be stored overnight ?	Request Form type/Section
			Universal (white top)							
Joint Fluid	For Culture see Fluids (MC&S) For crystals see Crystals -joint fluids									

K

TEST	Collection requirement/ Comments	Specimen Type	Container or blood tube	Hospital Turnaround time	GP Turnaround time	Referral centre (if not MTW)	Referred Turnaround time	Time Limit for requesting as extra	Can sample be stored overnight ?	Request Form type/Section
Karyotype	See Chromosomes									
Kleihauer tests (foetal maternal haemorrhage)	Some specimens may need to be referred. Sample should (optimally) be taken 30-45 minutes after the sensitising event.	blood	Xmatch EDTA (Pink top)	98% next working day		NBS RCI lab, Colindale	72 hours		4°C (fridge)	Transfusion

L

TEST	Collection requirement/ Comments	Specimen Type	Container or blood tube	Hospital Turnaround time	GP Turnaround time	Referral centre (if not MTW)	Referred Turnaround time	Time Limit for requesting as extra	Can sample be stored overnight ?	Request Form type/Section
Lactate (Plasma)	No longer available in laboratory. Lactate is available on all Trust Blood gas analysers.									
Lactate Dehydrogenase (Fluid LDH)	Measurement of fluid LDH values and the calculation of fluid to serum total protein ratios will aid in	fluid	20 mL white top Universal	4 h	24 h			not available	no	Blood Science - Chem

TEST	Collection requirement/ Comments	Specimen Type	Container or blood tube	Hospital Turnaround time	GP Turnaround time	Referral centre (if not MTW)	Referred Turnaround time	Time Limit for requesting as extra	Can sample be stored overnight ?	Request Form type/Section
	differentiating exudates from transudates. Not available for CSF. Do NOT use Vacuum tube (pod) to transport fluid samples									
Lactate dehydrogenase (Serum LDH)		blood	Gel Clot (Gold top)	4 h	24h			not available	no	Blood Science - Chem
Lamotrigine	Please state dosage and time of last dose.	blood	Plain Clot (red top)	Referred	Referred	KINGS	10 d	not available	no	Blood Science - Chem
Lead (Blood)	Please state source of exposure	blood	EDTA (Purple top)	Referred	Referred	Kings College	7 d	not available	no	Blood Science - Chem
Legionella Antigen Screen		Urine - 10 ml	20mL Plain Universal (white top) or Boric Acid universal (red top)	90% in 1 day	90% in 1 day				4°C (fridge)	Microbiology
Leishmania serology		blood	Plain Clot (red top)	Referred	Referred	HTD	90% in 12 working days		4°C (fridge)	Microbiology
Leptospira serology		blood	Plain Clot (red top)	Referred	Referred	Porton Down	90% in 6 working days		4°C (fridge)	Microbiology
Levetiracetam	Please state dosage and time of last dose.	blood	Plain Clot (red top)	Referred	Referred	CARDIFF Toxicology Lab	16 d	3 d	no	Blood Science - Chem
LFT (Liver Function Tests) (Paediatrics)	When being collected into a paediatric bottle	blood	Lithium Heparin (Green top)	4 h	24 h			3d	no	Blood Science - Chem
LFT (Liver function tests) (Adult)	Profile = Bilirubin, ALP, ALT and Albumin	blood	Gel Clot (Gold top)	4 h	24 h			3d	no	Blood Science - Chem
LGV (lymphogranuloma venereum)		Rectal swab	Chlamydia container	Referred	Referred	Micropathology Ltd	90% in 6 working days		Room temperature	Microbiology

TEST	Collection requirement/ Comments	Specimen Type	Container or blood tube	Hospital Turnaround time	GP Turnaround time	Referral centre (if not MTW)	Referred Turnaround time	Time Limit for requesting as extra	Can sample be stored overnight ?	Request Form type/Section
LH (Luteinising hormone)	Female patients – day 1 - 5 if regular cycles. Please state LMP.	blood	Gel Clot (Gold top)	3 days	3 days	MS		3 d	no	Blood Science - Chem
Lipids	Profile = Cholesterol, Triglycerides, HDL, non-LDL, LDL and Chol/HDL. Fasting 12 hr minimum, ideally 14 hr water only.	blood	Gel Clot (Gold top)	4 h	24 h			3 d	no	Blood Science - Chem
Lipoprotein (A)			Gel Clot (Gold top)	Referred	Referred	St Thomas	21 d			Blood Science - Chem
Lithium	12 hours post dose.	blood	Gel Clot (Gold top)	3 days	3 days	MS		3d	no	Blood Science - Chem
Liver Antibodies	Paediatric samples must be red top	blood	Gel Clot (Gold top)			WHH	2 weeks	7 days if no immunology already requested, 6 weeks if additional immunology test	Room Temperature	Blood Science - Immunology
Lupus anticoagulant Screen	Only stable for 4 hours. Send to lab straight after venepuncture (patient only to be bled in the hospital if this test is required) Discuss with Consultant Haematologist before requesting	blood	2 x Citrate (Blue top)	4 weeks	4 weeks			within 4 hrs of venepuncture	No	Blood Science - Haem
Lyme serology (Borrelia burgdorferi)		blood	Plain Clot (Red top)	90% in 5 working days	90% in 5 working days	Positives: Porton Down	90% in 10 working days		4°C (fridge)	Microbiology
Lymphocyte subsets	Discuss with haematology consultant before taking samples	blood				Kings College Hospital	4 weeks	-	no	Blood Science - Haem

TEST	Collection requirement/ Comments	Specimen Type	Container or blood tube	Hospital Turnaround time	GP Turnaround time	Referral centre (if not MTW)	Referred Turnaround time	Time Limit for requesting as extra	Can sample be stored overnight ?	Request Form type/Section

M

TEST	Collection requirement/ Comments	Specimen Type	Container or blood tube	Hospital Turnaround time	GP Turnaround time	Referral centre (if not MTW)	Referred Turnaround time	Time Limit for requesting as extra	Can sample be stored overnight ?	Request Form type/Section`
Magnesium (24h urine)		urine	5L plain container	Referred	Referred	Kent & Canterbury	Contact Lab	3 d		Blood Science - Chem
Magnesium (Serum) (Paediatrics)	When being collected into a paediatric bottle	blood	Lithium Heparin (Green top)	4 h	24 h			3d	no	Blood Science - Chem
Magnesium (Serum) (Adults)		blood	Gel Clot (Gold top)	4 h	24 h			3d	no	Blood Science - Chem
Malarial Parasites		blood	EDTA (Purple top)	4 hrs if urgent	6 hrs		3 days	6 hrs	No	Blood Science - Haem
Measles IgM antibodies	Acute infection	blood	Plain Clot (Red top)	Referred	Referred	Colindale	90% in 6 working days		4°C (fridge)	Microbiology
Measles IgG antibodies (immunity check)		blood	Plain Clot (Red top)	90% in 7 working days	90% in 7 working days				4°C (fridge)	Microbiology
MRES-CoV	MUST contact Consultant Microbiologist									
Metabolic stone screen (Urine)	Profile = 24 hr Urine Calcium, Creatinine, Phosphate, Urate, Oxalate and Osmolality	24hr urine	5 L plain container	24 h + Oxalate - Referred	24 h + Oxalate - Referred	Brighton/ Kent & Canterbury	27 d	not available		Blood Science - Chem
Meningococcal PCR		Blood CSF	EDTA (Purple top) Plain 20mL Universal	Referred	Referred	Manchester	90% in 14 days		4°C (fridge)	Microbiology

TEST	Collection requirement/ Comments	Specimen Type	Container or blood tube	Hospital Turnaround time	GP Turnaround time	Referral centre (if not MTW)	Referred Turnaround time	Time Limit for requesting as extra	Can sample be stored overnight ?	Request Form type/Section`
			(white top)							
Mitochondrial Cell Antibody		blood	Gel Clot (Gold top)			WHH	7 days		room temp	Blood Science - Immunology
Monospot	see Glandular Fever									
MPO Antibodies	Reflex test following ANCA. Paediatric samples must be red top	blood	Gel Clot (Gold top)			WHH	3 weeks	7 days if no immunology already requested, 6 weeks if additional immunology test	room temp	Blood Science - Immunology
MRSA screen	Transport to the laboratory within one day	Swab	blue top plastic shaft	95% in 2 days	95% in 2 days				4°C (fridge)	Microbiology
MSSA screen	Transport to the laboratory within one day	Nose Swab	blue top plastic shaft	90% in 2 days	90% in 2 days				4°C (fridge)	Microbiology
Mucopolysaccharides	Please state clinical indication	urine	Plain 20mL Universal (white top)	Referred	Contact biochemistry lab	St Thomas Genetic Enzyme Lab	43 d	not applicable	no	Blood Science - Chem
Mumps IgG antibodies	Immunity	blood	Plain Clot (Red top)	Referred	Referred	William Harvey, Ashford	90% in 6 working days		4°C (fridge)	Microbiology
Mumps IgM antibodies	Acute infection	blood	Plain Clot (Red top)	Referred	Referred	Colindale	90% in 12 working days		4°C (fridge)	Microbiology
Mycobacteria	See AAFB									
Mycophenolate	Please state dosage and time of last dose. Referral hospital dependent on Rx/Txp	blood	EDTA (Purple top)	Referred	Referred	Kings College Institute Of Liver Studies	12 d	not applicable		Blood Science - Chem
Mycoplasma genitalium	Refer patient to GUM Clinic	Swab or urine	Use Chlamydia	Referred	Referred	Micropathology	90% in 6 working days			Microbiology

TEST	Collection requirement/ Comments	Specimen Type	Container or blood tube	Hospital Turnaround time	GP Turnaround time	Referral centre (if not MTW)	Referred Turnaround time	Time Limit for requesting as extra	Can sample be stored overnight ?	Request Form type/Section`
			collection - Kit provided (Yellow cap)							
Mycoplasma pneumoniae IgM		blood	Plain Clot (Red top)	Referred	Referred	WHH	7-10 days	1 year	4°C (fridge)	Microbiology
Mycoplasma pneumoniae PCR		BAL, Sputa or NPA	Plain 20mL Universal (white top)	Referred	Referred	Micropathology Ltd	90% in 3 working days		4°C (fridge)	Microbiology

N

TEST	Collection requirement/ Comments	Specimen Type	Container or blood tube	Hospital Turnaround time	GP Turnaround time	Referral centre (if not MTW)	Referred Turnaround time	Time Limit for requesting as extra	Can sample be stored overnight ?	Request Form type/Section`
N.gonorrhoea PCR		swab	Swab in Chlamydia container (yellow top)	90% in 7 working days	90% in 7 working days	For confirmation: Micropathology Ltd	90% in 11 working days		Room temp	Microbiology
Needlestick injury - RECIPIENT	Serum saved	blood	Plain Clot (Red top)							
Needlestick injury - DONOR	Hepatitis Bs Ag, Hepatitis C Ab and HIV - Patient must give consent.	blood	Plain Clot (Red top)	90% in 1 day	90% in 1 day			1 year	4°C (fridge)	Microbiology
Neuronal Antibody (Hu/R)	Paediatric samples must be red top	blood	Gel Clot (Gold top)			WHH	7 weeks	7 days if no immunology already requested, 6 weeks if additional immunology test	room temp	Blood Science - Immunology

TEST	Collection requirement/ Comments	Specimen Type	Container or blood tube	Hospital Turnaround time	GP Turnaround time	Referral centre (if not MTW)	Referred Turnaround time	Time Limit for requesting as extra	Can sample be stored overnight ?	Request Form type/Section`
Neutrophil Antibodies	contact Haematology consultants before sending. Samples referred to NHS Blood Transplant laboratories.	blood	Plain Clot (Red top)			NBS H&I lab, Bristol	14 days	not available	room temp	Transfusion
NSE (Neurone Specific Enolase)	Please state clinical indication	blood	Gel Clot (Gold top)	Referred	Referred	Sheffield	9 d	not available	no	Blood Science - Chem
Neurotensin	See Gut Hormones									
Norovirus	see FAECES- C&S, parasites, virology (rotavirus, adenovirus, norovirus)									

O

TEST	Collection requirement/ Comments	Specimen Type	Container or blood tube	Hospital Turnaround time	GP Turnaround time	Referral centre (if not MTW)	Referred Turnaround time	Time Limit for requesting as extra	Can sample be stored overnight ?	Request Form type/Section`
25 OH Vitamin D	See Vitamin D					-				
Oestradiol	State LMP or HRT preparation.	blood	Plain Clot (red top)	3 days	3 days	MS		2 d	no	Blood Science - Chem
Oligoclonal Bands	Paired serum and CSF sample should be sent. Do NOT use Vacuum tube (pod) to transport CSF samples	blood + CSF	Gel Clot (Gold top) + Plain 20mL Universal (white top)	Referred	Referred	St Georges	51 d	not available	no	Blood Science - Chem
Organic acids (Urine)	Please state clinical indication	urine	Plain 20mL Universal (white top) or monovette	Referred	Referred	St Thomas	58 d	not available	no	Blood Science - Chem

TEST	Collection requirement/ Comments	Specimen Type	Container or blood tube	Hospital Turnaround time	GP Turnaround time	Referral centre (if not MTW)	Referred Turnaround time	Time Limit for requesting as extra	Can sample be stored overnight ?	Request Form type/Section`
Osmolality (Serum)		blood	Gel Clot (Gold top)	24 h	24 h			3d	no	Blood Science - Chem
Osmolality (Urine)	Random sample	urine	Plain 20mL Universal (white top) or monovette	24 h	24h			3d	no	Blood Science - Chem
Oxalate (24h Urine)		24hr urine	5 L plain container	Referred	Referred	Brighton / Kent & Canterbury	27d	not applicable	no	Blood Science - Chem
Ovarian Antibodies	Paediatric samples must be red top	blood	Gel Clot (Gold top)			WHH	7 weeks	7 days if no immunology already requested, 6 weeks if additional immunology test	Room Temp	Blood Science - Immunology

PQ

TEST	Collection requirement/ Comments	Specimen Type	Container or blood tube	Hospital Turnaround time	GP Turnaround time	Referral centre (if not MTW)	Referred Turnaround time	Time Limit for requesting as extra	Can sample be stored overnight ?	Request Form type/Section`
Paracetamol	Sample must be taken at least 4 hrs post dose.	blood	Gel Clot (Gold top)	4 h	not available			2d	no	Blood Science - Chem
Parathyroid hormone	see PTH									
Parasite Micro	See Faeces									Microbiology
Paul Bunnell Screening Test	see Glandular Fever									

TEST	Collection requirement/ Comments	Specimen Type	Container or blood tube	Hospital Turnaround time	GP Turnaround time	Referral centre (if not MTW)	Referred Turnaround time	Time Limit for requesting as extra	Can sample be stored overnight ?	Request Form type/Section`
Parvovirus IgG/IgM		blood	Plain clot (red top)	Referred	Referred	William Harvey, Ashford	90% in 9 working days	1 year	4°C (fridge)	Microbiology
Pemphigus/goid Ab (aka Indirect immunofluorescence (serum))	Paediatric samples must be red top	blood	Gel Clot (Gold top)	Referred	Referred	WHH	7 weeks	7 days if no immunology already requested, 6 weeks if additional immunology test	room temp	Blood Science - Immunology
Peritoneal fluid	See Fluids for cytology or Fluids for Microbiology as appropriate									
PERTUSSIS (Bordetella) children <12 months old	refer patient to the hospital paediatric team	NPA (Nasopharyngeal aspirate)	Plain 20mL Universal (white top) or collection tube	Referred	Referred	Southampton	90% in 6 working days		4°C (fridge)	Microbiology
PERTUSSIS (Bordetella) children >12 months old and adults	Collect >2 weeks after onset of symptoms. Not suitable if primary or booster pertussis vaccination given within the last 12 months.	blood	Plain Clot (red top)	Referred	Referred	Colindale	90% in 12 working days	6 months (if other microbiology tests requested)	4°C (fridge)	Microbiology
pH Urine & Fluids	Send sample immediately to Biochemistry for processing	Urine or fluid	20 mL white top Universal	4 h	not available			not available	no	Blood Science - Chem
Phenobarbitone	Please state dosage and time of last dose .	blood	Plain Clot (red top)	Referred	Referred	St Thomas Med Tox	13 d	not available	no	Blood Science - Chem
Phenytoin	Please state dosage and time of last dose .	blood	Plain Clot (red top)	3 days	3 days	MS		3 d	no	Blood Science - Chem
Phosphate (24hr Urine)		24hr urine	5L plain container	24h	24h			3 d	no	Blood Science - Chem

TEST	Collection requirement/ Comments	Specimen Type	Container or blood tube	Hospital Turnaround time	GP Turnaround time	Referral centre (if not MTW)	Referred Turnaround time	Time Limit for requesting as extra	Can sample be stored overnight ?	Request Form type/Section`
Phosphate (Serum) (Paediatrics)	When being collected into a paediatric bottle	blood	Lithium Heparin (Green top)	4 h	24 h			3d	no	Blood Science - Chem
Phosphate (Serum) (Adults)		blood	Gel Clot (Gold top)	4 h	24 h			3d	no	Blood Science - Chem
Platelet antibodies	Contact Haematology consultants before sending. Samples referred to NBS laboratories.	blood	Plain Clot (Red top)	Referred	Referred	NBS H&I lab, Bristol	14 days	not available	4°C (fridge)	Transfusion
Platelet function test (platelet aggregation studies)	This is a specialised test performed on fresh blood by the Haemophilia Centre at Canterbury. The patient is referred by appointment. Tel: 01227 783157 Discuss with Consultant Haematologist first.									Blood Science - Haem
Pleural fluid	See - Fluids for cytology or Fluids for Microbiology as appropriate									
Pneumococcal antibody level	See - Childhood vaccine antibody levels (Hib/pneumococcal)									
Pneumococcal Antigen Screen		Urine – 10 ml	Plain Universal (white top)	90% in 1 day	90% in 1 day			24 hrs after sample collected	4°C (fridge)	Microbiology
Pneumocystis Pneumonia (PCP)		BAL, sputum, NPA	Plain 20mL Universal (white top)	Referred	Referred	Micropathology Ltd	90% in 3 working days		4°C (fridge)	Microbiology
PNH Screen (Paroxysmal Nocturnal Haemoglobin Uria)	Send sample to laboratory straight after venepuncture	blood	EDTA (Purple top)	Referred	Referred	St Georges Hospital		not available	no	Blood Science - Haem

TEST	Collection requirement/ Comments	Specimen Type	Container or blood tube	Hospital Turnaround time	GP Turnaround time	Referral centre (if not MTW)	Referred Turnaround time	Time Limit for requesting as extra	Can sample be stored overnight ?	Request Form type/Section`
Porphyrins (Blood)	Sample must be protected from light Please state full clinical details to aid helpful interpretation. Sample required within 8 hours of collection.	blood	EDTA (Purple top)	Referred	Referred	Kings	21 d	not available	no	Blood Science - Chem
Porphyrins (Faeces)	Sample must be protected from light Please state full clinical details to aid helpful interpretation. Sample required within 8 hours of collection.	faeces	Faeces 30 mL universal (blue top)	Referred	Referred	Kings	21d	not available	no	Blood Science - Chem
Porphyrins (Urine)	Sample must be protected from light Please state full clinical details to aid helpful interpretation. Sample required within 8 hours of collection.	urine	Plain 20mL Universal (white top) or monovette	Referred	Referred	Kings	21d	not available	no	Blood Science - Chem
Posaconazole Level	Take a pre-dose sample after 7 days of treatment	blood	Plain clot (red top)	Referred	Referred	Leeds	90% in 10 days		4°C (fridge)	Microbiology
Post Natal: Rh (D) negative mothers or mothers with atypical antibodies	Maternal sample for Kleihauer and cord blood for grouping should be taken.	blood	See individual tests for sample requirements	24 h	24h					Transfusion
Potassium (24hr Urine)		24hr urine	5L plain container	24 h	24h			3d	no	Blood Science - Chem
Potassium (Random Urine)		urine	Plain 20mL Universal (white top)	24h	24h			3d	no	Blood Science - Chem
Potassium (serum)		blood	Gel Clot (Gold top)	4 h	24h			3d	no	Blood Science - Chem

TEST	Collection requirement/ Comments	Specimen Type	Container or blood tube	Hospital Turnaround time	GP Turnaround time	Referral centre (if not MTW)	Referred Turnaround time	Time Limit for requesting as extra	Can sample be stored overnight ?	Request Form type/Section`
PR3 Antibodies	Reflex test following ANCA. Paediatric samples must be red top	blood	Gel Clot (Gold top)	Referred	Referred	WHH	3 weeks	7 days if no immunology already requested, 6 weeks if additional immunology test	room temp	Blood Science - Immunology
Primidone	Metabolises to phenobarbitone. Request phenobarbitone									
Procollagen-3-NP		blood	Gel Clot (Gold top)	Referred	Referred	Sheffield	15 d	not available	no	Blood Science - Chem
Progesterone	Useful only day 21 of Cycle or mid luteal phase. In certain PUL (not routine EPC) patients Consultant request only	blood	Plain Clot (red top)	24 h	3 days			3d	no	Blood Science - Chem
Prolactin	Please state all medication.	blood	Gel Clot (Gold top)	3 days	3 days	MS		3d	no	Blood Science - Chem
Prosthetic Joint	Do NOT add formalin to sample	Tissue	Sterile theatre pack Yellow top (do not add formalin)	90% Interim report in 2 days. 90% final report in 12 days	NA				no	Microbiology
Protein & albumin (Fluid)	Do NOT use Vacuum tube (pod) to transport fluid samples	fluid	Plain 20mL Universal (white top)	4 h	not available			3d	no	Blood Science - Chem
Protein C	Normally performed as part of Thrombophilia Screen. If requesting as individual test, please discuss with Consultant Haematologist first.	blood	1 x Citrate (Blue top) (if requested as individual test)	4 weeks	4 weeks		4 weeks	not available	No	Blood Science - Haem

TEST	Collection requirement/ Comments	Specimen Type	Container or blood tube	Hospital Turnaround time	GP Turnaround time	Referral centre (if not MTW)	Referred Turnaround time	Time Limit for requesting as extra	Can sample be stored overnight ?	Request Form type/Section`
	This test is only conducted on patients who fit criteria stated by BCSH. Only stable for 4 hours. Send to lab ASAP. Clinical details must be stated.									
Protein/Creatinine ratio (random urine)	Available acute obstetrics at weekend if received before 12:00 at TWH	urine	Plain 20mL Universal (white top) or monovette	24 h	3 days			3 d	yes	Blood Science - Chem
Protein Electrophoresis (Serum)	Not applicable <18 years old. Reporting may be delayed if further investigation is needed e.g. immunofixation	blood	Gel Clot (Gold top)	5 days	5 days	TWH		3d	no	Blood Science - Chem
Protein S	Normally performed as part of Thrombophilia Screen. If requesting as individual test, please discuss with Consultant Haematologist first. This test is only conducted on patients who fit criteria stated by BCSH. Only stable for 4 hours. Send to lab ASAP. Clinical details must be stated.	blood	1 x Citrate (Blue top) (if requested as individual test)	4 weeks	4 weeks		4 weeks	not available	No	Blood Science - Haem
ProthrombinTime	Tested as part of Clotting Screen. Request INR if this test is required for									

TEST	Collection requirement/ Comments	Specimen Type	Container or blood tube	Hospital Turnaround time	GP Turnaround time	Referral centre (if not MTW)	Referred Turnaround time	Time Limit for requesting as extra	Can sample be stored overnight ?	Request Form type/Section`
	INR ratio only. Refer to INR test in this instance.									
Pro BNP (NT Pro BNP)	Only available to PCT. Must reach biochemistry within 8 hours. Not recommend to repeat within 1 year.	blood	EDTA (Purple top)	Not available	3 days	TWH		not applicable	no	Blood Science - Chem
PSA (Prostate Specific Antigen Total)		blood	Gel Clot (Gold top)	3 days	3 days	Maidstone		3d	no	Blood Science - Chem
PTH (Parathyroid hormone)	Please also request paired calcium and phosphate (gold top). Sample must reach biochemistry on the day of collection.	blood	EDTA (Purple top) + Gel Clot (Gold top)	7 days	7 days	Maidstone		not applicable	no	Blood Science - Chem
Purkinje Ab (Yo)	Paediatric samples must be red top	blood	Gel Clot (Gold top)	Referred	Referred	WHH	7 weeks	7 days if no immunology already requested, 6 weeks if additional immunology test	room temp	Blood Science - Immunology
Purkinje Cell Antibody		blood	Gel Clot (Gold top)	Referred	Referred	WHH	21 days	7 days if no immunology already requested, 6 weeks if additional immunology test	room temp	Blood Science - Immunology
Q-Fever	See - Coxiella serology									

R

TEST	Collection requirement/ Comments	Specimen Type	Container or blood tube	Hospital Turnaround time	GP Turnaround time	Referral centre (if not MTW)	Referred Turnaround time	Time Limit for requesting as extra	Can sample be stored overnight ?	Request Form type/Section`
RA (Rheumatoid Arthritis) Screen Also known as RF		blood	Gel Clot (Gold top)	72 hrs	72 hrs			-	4°C (fridge)	Blood Science - Haem
Rabies Serology		blood	Plain Clot (Red top)	Referred	Referred	Animal & Plant Health Agency	Not published		4°C (fridge)	Microbiology
RAST (Allergy Screen). Reference Guide available	Please complete allergy form stating specific allergen required and send with sample	blood	Gel Clot (Gold top)	Referred	Referred	WHH	18d	not available	no	Blood Science - Immunology
Red Cell Cholinesterase	For organophosphate use	Requesting clinician should contact H&S Laboratory Buxton directly								
Renal (Paediatrics)	When being collected into a paediatric bottle	blood	Lithium Heparin (Green top)	4 h	24h			3d	no	Blood Science - Chem
Renal (Adults)	Profile = Sodium Potassium Creatinine	blood	Gel Clot (Gold top)	4 h	24h			3d	no	Blood Science - Chem
Renin	See Aldosterone								no	
Respiratory viruses (except Flu A/B, RSV, Covid) PCR		Nose/throat swab	Viral swab (green top)	Referred	Referred	Micropathology Ltd	90% in 3 working days		4°C (fridge)	Microbiology
Reticulocyte Count	Request with FBC if this test is required.	blood	EDTA (Purple top)	Urgent – 1 hr Routine – 4 hrs	24 hrs			8 hrs	No	Blood Science - Haem

TEST	Collection requirement/ Comments	Specimen Type	Container or blood tube	Hospital Turnaround time	GP Turnaround time	Referral centre (if not MTW)	Referred Turnaround time	Time Limit for requesting as extra	Can sample be stored overnight ?	Request Form type/Section`
RF (Rheumatoid Factor)	see Rheumatoid Arthritis									
Rifampicin levels	Take a pre-dose sample and three post dose samples at 1h, 2h and 4h after oral dose	blood	Plain Clot (Red top)	Referred	Referred	Bristol	90% in 5 working days		4°C (fridge)	Microbiology
RSV screen		NPA	Plain universal	90% in 1 day	90% in 1 day	William Harvey, Ashford (for further testing)	90% in 4 working days		4°C (fridge)	Microbiology
Rubella IgM	Acute infection	blood	Plain Clot (Red top)	Referred	Referred	WHH	90% in 16 working days		4°C (fridge)	Microbiology
Rubella IgG antibodies	Immunity	blood	Plain Clot (Red top)	90% in 7 working days	90% in 7 working days				4°C (fridge)	Microbiology

S

TEST	Collection requirement/ Comments	Specimen Type	Container or blood tube	Hospital Turnaround time	GP Turnaround time	Referral centre (if not MTW)	Referred Turnaround time	Time Limit for requesting as extra	Can sample be stored overnight ?	Request Form type/Section`
Salicylate		blood	Gel Clot (Gold top)	4 h	not available			3d	no	Blood Science - Chem
Salivary Gland Antibody		blood	Gel Clot (Gold top)	Referred	Referred	WHH	21 days		room temp	Blood Science - Immunology
SARS-Cov2 RNA PCR		Nose/ throat swab	Viral swab (green top or red in-house top)	Symptomatic: <15 hrs Pre Assessment: 48hrs						Microbiology
SARS-Cov2 RNA Rapid Testing		Nose/ throat swab	specific bottle type issued from ED mini	3 hrs						n/a

TEST	Collection requirement/ Comments	Specimen Type	Container or blood tube	Hospital Turnaround time	GP Turnaround time	Referral centre (if not MTW)	Referred Turnaround time	Time Limit for requesting as extra	Can sample be stored overnight ?	Request Form type/Section`
			lab							
Schistosoma serology		blood	Plain Clot (Red top)	Referred	Referred	HTD	90% in 12 working days		4°C (fridge)	Microbiology
Selenium	Please state clinical indication	blood	Trace element bottle (Royal Blue top)	Referred	Referred	Birmingham City Toxicology	8 d	not available	no	Blood Science - Chem
Serous fluids	See Fluids for cytology									
Schistosoma serology		blood	Plain clot (red top)	Referred	Referred	HTD	90% in 12 working days		4°C (fridge)	Microbiology
Sickle cell screen		blood	EDTA (Purple top)	Urgent – 1 hr Routine – 24 hr	72 hrs			24 hrs	4°C (fridge)	Blood Science - Haem
Skeletal Muscle Antibody		blood	Gel Clot (Gold top)	Referred	Referred	WHH	21 days		room temp	Blood Science - Immunology
Skin Antibody		blood	Gel Clot (Gold top)	Referred	Referred	WHH	21 days		room temp	Blood Science - Immunology
Smooth Muscle Antibody		blood	Gel Clot (Gold top)	Referred	Referred	WHH	3 days		room temp	Blood Science - Immunology
Sodium (24hr Urine)	24 hr collection.	24hr urine	5L plain container	24 h	24 h			3d	no	Blood Science - Chem
Sodium (Random Urine)		Random urine	Plain Universal (white top)	24 h	24 h					Blood Science - Chem
Sodium/Potassium (Serum)		blood	Gel Clot (Gold top)	4 h	24h			3d	no	Blood Science - Chem
Somatostatin	See Gut Hormones									
Sputum C&S	Do not send saliva. Avoid mouth wash. Transport to the laboratory the same day.	2-5 ml Sputum	60ml (white top)	90% in 3 days	90% in 3 days				4°C (fridge)	Microbiology

TEST	Collection requirement/ Comments	Specimen Type	Container or blood tube	Hospital Turnaround time	GP Turnaround time	Referral centre (if not MTW)	Referred Turnaround time	Time Limit for requesting as extra	Can sample be stored overnight ?	Request Form type/Section`
Sputum for cytology	Detection rates of malignancy from sputum are very low	Early morning deep cough specimen	60ml (white top)	within 1 week (unless marked urgent)	within 1 week				4°C (fridge)	Cell Path
Steroid Profile (24h Urine)	Please state clinical indication	24hr urine	5L plain container	Referred	Referred	Kings College	36 d	not available	no	Blood Science - Chem
Steroid profile (Random Urine)	Please state clinical indication	urine	Plain Universal (white top)	Referred	Referred	Kings College	36 d	not available		Blood Science - Chem
Stone	Please state site of stone	STONE	Plain Universal (white top)	Referred	Referred	Middlesex (UCL)	16 d	not available	no	Blood Science - Chem
Streptococcus pneumoniae Antigen Screen	See - Pneumococcal Antigen Screen									
Streptomycin Level	Pre & Post dose to be collected after 2 nd – 4 th dose	blood	Plain clot (red top)	Referred	Referred	Bristol	90% in 5 working days		4°C (fridge)	Microbiology
Strongyloides serology		blood	Plain clot (red top)	Referred	Referred	HTD	90% in 12 working days		4°C (fridge)	Microbiology
SWABS- BACTERIAL (all sites) (C&S) (Pus is always preferred)	Transport swabs are stable at room temperature for 24 hours but refrigerate samples where possible.	charcoal swab. ENT and Urethral/ CX wire swabs available.	black top, plastic shaft.	results: 90% within 3 working days	results: 90% within 3 working days				4°C (fridge)	Microbiology
SWABS - CHLAMYDIA	Transport to the lab within one day. See handout sheet		Kit supplied.	90% in 7 working days	90% in 7 working days				4°C (fridge)	Microbiology
SWABS – HSV (Herpes simplex virus) PCR	Transport to the lab within one day.		Viral transport medium. Kit provided.	Referred	Referred	WHH	90% in 6 working days		4°C (fridge)	Microbiology

TEST	Collection requirement/ Comments	Specimen Type	Container or blood tube	Hospital Turnaround time	GP Turnaround time	Referral centre (if not MTW)	Referred Turnaround time	Time Limit for requesting as extra	Can sample be stored overnight ?	Request Form type/Section`
SWABS - VIRAL investigation	Provide full clinical details and specify which viral PCR requested Transport to the lab within one day.		Viral transport medium. Kit provided.	Referred	Referred	Most sent to Micropathology	90% in 14 working days		4°C (fridge)	Microbiology
Sweat test	Please contact the Paediatricians.	Sweat		Referred	Referred	Kent & Canterbury				Blood Science - Chem
Syphilis (IgG/IgM)		blood	Plain Clot (red top)	90% in 5 working days	90% in 5 working days	Positives: HPE Colidnale	90% in 8 working days		4°C (fridge)	Microbiology

T

TEST	Collection requirement/ Comments	Specimen Type	Container or blood tube	Hospital Turnaround time	GP Turnaround time	Referral centre (if not MTW)	Referred Turnaround time	Time Limit for requesting as extra	Can sample be stored overnight ?	Request Form type/Section`
Tacrolimus	Please state dosage and time of last dose.	blood	EDTA (Purple top)	Referred	Referred	Kent & Canterbury/ Kings College	7 d	not applicable	no	Blood Science - Chem
TB (tuberculosis) culture	See AAFB									
Teicoplanin	Monitoring is only required if treatment duration >2 weeks. Take pre dose (just before the dose) on day 5	blood	Plain Clot (red top)	Referred	Referred	Bristol	90% in 3 working days		4°C (fridge)	Microbiology
Tips MC&S	Disinfect the skin around the cannula entry site, remove cannula using aseptic technique, and cut off 4cm into appropriate sterile	tip	Plain universal	90% in 3 working days					4°C (fridge)	Microbiology
Testosterone/SHBG	Male patients collect sample 8-11 am. SHBG	blood	Plain Clot (red top)	3 days	3 days	MS		3d	4°C (fridge)	Blood Science - Chem

TEST	Collection requirement/ Comments	Specimen Type	Container or blood tube	Hospital Turnaround time	GP Turnaround time	Referral centre (if not MTW)	Referred Turnaround time	Time Limit for requesting as extra	Can sample be stored overnight ?	Request Form type/Section`
	routinely reported for female patient									
Theophylline	Please state dosage and time of last dose.	blood	Plain Clot (red top)	3 days	3 days	MS		3d	no	Blood Science - Chem
THREAD-WORM	See instruction sheet	cellotape onto slide.	Plain 20mL Universal (white top)	Microscopy results available same day.	Microscopy results available same day.				4°C (fridge)	Microbiology
THREAD-WORM	See instruction sheet	Saline wash and swab.	Plain 20mL Universal (white top)	Microscopy results available same day.	Microscopy results available same day.				4°C (fridge)	Microbiology
Thrombin Time	Only stable for 4 hours. Only request this test after discussing with the laboratory	blood	Citrate (blue top)	Urgent – 1 hr Routine – 4 hours				4 hrs	No	Blood Science - Haem
Thrombophilia screen	This test is only conducted on patients who fit criteria stated by BCSH. Only stable for 4 hours. Send to lab ASAP. Clinical details must be stated.	blood	4 x Citrate (Blue top) and 1 x Plain Clot (Red top)	4 weeks	4 weeks		4 weeks	not available	No	Blood Science - Haem
Thyroglobulin	Recommended for monitoring patients with papillary and follicular thyroid carcinoma	blood	Gel Clot (Gold top)	Referred	Referred	Selly Oak	20 d	not applicable	no	Blood Science - Chem
Thyroid Autoantibody		blood	Gel Clot (Gold top)	Referred	Referred	WHH	14 days		room temp	Blood Science - Immunology
Thyroid Peroxidase	Paediatric samples must be red top	blood	Gel Clot (Gold top)	Referred	Referred	WHH	2 weeks	7 days if no immunology already requested, 6	room temp	Blood Science - Immunology

TEST	Collection requirement/ Comments	Specimen Type	Container or blood tube	Hospital Turnaround time	GP Turnaround time	Referral centre (if not MTW)	Referred Turnaround time	Time Limit for requesting as extra	Can sample be stored overnight ?	Request Form type/Section`
								weeks if additional immunology test		
Tissue - culture	see also Prosthetic joint. Do NOT add formalin	Tissue	Plain 20mL Universal (white top)	Microscopy – 90% same day Interim Culture – 90% in 3 working days	Microscopy – 90% same day Interim Culture – 90% in 3 working days				4°C (fridge)	Microbiology
Tissue - histology biopsies		Tissue	60ml formalin container (purple top)	7 days	7 days				room temp	Histology
Tissue - histology large specimens	Add sufficient formalin to cover tissue	Tissue	.05l - 2l bucket	10 days`	n/a				room temp	Histology
TOBRAMYCIN	Take Pre dose before giving the next dose. Post dose levels are not required	blood	Plain Clot (Red top)	Referred	Referred	Bristol	24hr (Mon-Thurs) 72hrs (Fri) from receipt phoned result	not available	4°C (fridge)	Microbiology
TORCH screen	Sent with stored antenatal sample	blood	Plain Clot (Red top)	90% in 7 working days	90% in 7 working days	WHH	90 % in 15 working days from time stored samples sent.	1 year	4°C (fridge)	Microbiology
Total Protein (CSF)	Do NOT use Vacuum tube to transport CSF samples	CSF	Plain 20mL Universal (white top)	4 h	not available			3d	no	Blood Science - Chem
Total Protein (Fluid)	Do NOT use Vacuum tube (pod) to transport fluid samples	fluid	Plain 20mL Universal (white top)	4 h	not available					Blood Science - Chem
Total Protein (Serum)		blood	Gel Clot (Gold top)	4 h	24 h			3d	no	Blood Science - Chem
Toxicology Screen (Urine)	Randon Urine - White Top universal. Not available for medico-legal work or employment screening.	urine	Plain 20mL Universal (white top)	Referred	Referred	KINGS	25 d	3 d		Blood Science - Chem

TEST	Collection requirement/ Comments	Specimen Type	Container or blood tube	Hospital Turnaround time	GP Turnaround time	Referral centre (if not MTW)	Referred Turnaround time	Time Limit for requesting as extra	Can sample be stored overnight ?	Request Form type/Section`
	Please state which drug or substance in particular suspected in the clinical details.									
Toxoplasma screen		blood	Plain Clot (Red top)	90% in 7 working days	90% in 7 working days	Positives: Swansea	90% in 9 to 12 working days	1 year	4°C (fridge)	Microbiology
TPHA (Treponema haemag-glutination)	See Syphilis									
TPMT (Thio Purine Methyl Transferase)	Only indicated once (unless previously post transfusion)	blood	EDTA (Purple top)	Referred	Referred	St Thomas Purine Lab	23 d	not available	no	Blood Science - Chem
Troponin T	Only available to In-patients. Troponin T should not be requested at triage but only after medical review (unless obvious suspected acute coronary event) in which case contact laboratory or indicate on request form	blood	Gel Clot (Gold top)	4 h	test not available			24 hrs		Blood Science - Chem
Tryptase	Anaphylactic reactions = sample asap after emergency treatment started. It is important to state approx time reaction started/exposure to allergen. Second sample ideally within 1-2 hours (but no later than 4 hours) from the onset of symptoms. NICE CG134.	blood	EDTA (Purple top) or Lithium Heparin (Green top) preferred – but Gel Clot (Gold top) acceptable	Referred	Referred	Sheffield	21 d	not applicable	no	Blood Science - Chem
TSH (Thyroid Stimulating hormone)	Please state all medication. FT4 and FT3 will be reflexed by the laboratory if indicated by	blood	Gel Clot (Gold top)	24 h	3 days			3d	no	Blood Science - Chem

TEST	Collection requirement/ Comments	Specimen Type	Container or blood tube	Hospital Turnaround time	GP Turnaround time	Referral centre (if not MTW)	Referred Turnaround time	Time Limit for requesting as extra	Can sample be stored overnight ?	Request Form type/Section`
	clinical details and/or depending on TSH level. TSH should not be re-requested within a month.									
Toxocara serology		blood	Plain clot (red top)	Referred	Referred	HTD	90% in 12 working days		4°C (fridge)	Microbiology

U

TEST	Collection requirement/ Comments	Specimen Type	Container or blood tube	Hospital Turnaround time	GP Turnaround time	Referral centre (if not MTW)	Referred Turnaround time	Time Limit for requesting as extra	Can sample be stored overnight ?	Request Form type/Section`
Urate (24hr Urine)		24hr urine	5L plain container	24 h Mon-Fri	24 h Mon-Fri			3 d	no	Blood Science - Chem
Urate (Serum)	Uric Acid	blood	Gel Clot (Gold top)	4 h	24 h			3d	no	Blood Science - Chem
Urea (24hr Urine)		urine	5L plain container	24 h	24h			3d	no	Blood Science - Chem
Urea (Serum) (Paediatrics)	When being collected into a paediatric bottle	blood	Lithium Heparin (Green top)	4 h	24 h			3d	no	Blood Science - Chem
Urea (Serum) (Adults)		blood	Gel Clot (Gold top)	4 h	24h			3d	no	Blood Science - Chem
Urine for cytology	Detection rates of malignancy from urine are very low. Urine samples are not suitable for haematuria pathway investigation.	First part of second voided sample.	Plain 20mL Universal (white top)	within 1 week	within 1 week				4°C (fridge)	Cell Path

URINE MC&S	freshly voided urine - fill to line	urine	Boric Acid 20mL Universal (red top)	Microscopy available same day. Culture results 90% within 2 days	Microscopy available same day. Culture results 90% within 2 days				4°C (fridge)	Microbiology
URINE MC&S Paediatric	Where <10ml can be collected	urine	Plain 20mL Universal (white top)	Microscopy available same day. Culture results 90% within 2 days	Microscopy available same day. Culture results 90% within 2 days				4°C (fridge)	Microbiology

V

TEST	Collection requirement/ Comments	Specimen Type	Container or blood tube	Hospital Turnaround time	GP Turnaround time	Referral centre (if not MTW)	Referred Turnaround time	Time Limit for requesting as extra	Can sample be stored overnight ?	Request Form type/Section`
Valproate (Sodium Valproate)	(Epilem) Please state dosage and time of last dose.	blood	Plain Clot (red top)	Referred	Referred	St Thomas	11 d	not available	no	Blood Science - Chem
Vancomycin	Pre dose: take just before dose. Post dose levels are not required	blood	Gel Clot (Gold top)	4h	test not available			2 d	no	Blood Science - Chem
Very Long Chain Fatty Acids	Paediatrics only. Please state clinical indication	blood	EDTA (Purple top)	Referred	Referred	St Thomas	2w	not	no	Blood Science - Chem
VDRL	See Syphilis									
Vigabatrin	Please state dosage and time of last dose.	blood	Plain Clot (red top)	Referred	Referred	KINGS	21 d	not available	no	Blood Science - Chem
Viral cultures	see Swabs - viral									
Viral loads	See specific virus	blood	EDTA (Purple top)	See specific virus	See specific virus	See specific virus			no	Microbiology
Viral titres	Specify virus	blood	Plain Clot (Red top)	Referred	Referred	Depends on virus		1 year	4°C (fridge)	Microbiology

TEST	Collection requirement/ Comments	Specimen Type	Container or blood tube	Hospital Turnaround time	GP Turnaround time	Referral centre (if not MTW)	Referred Turnaround time	Time Limit for requesting as extra	Can sample be stored overnight ?	Request Form type/Section`
25 OH Vitamin D	See Vitamin D									
Vitamin B12	see Folate (serum) & Vitamin B12									
Vitamin D (VitD3, 25 hydroxy vitamin D, 25 OH Vitamin D.)	Do not retest within 80 days of previous result. See guidelines for the replacement of low Vitamin D	blood	Plain Clot (red top)	5 day	5 day	TWH		not available	no	Blood Science - Chem
VIP (vasoactive intestinal peptide)	See Gut Hormones									
VMA	See Catecholamines									
Voltage Gated Calcium channel antibody	Paediatric samples must be red top	blood	Gel Clot (Gold top)	Referred	Referred	WHH	7 weeks	7 days if no immunology already requested, 6 weeks if additional immunology test	room temp	Blood Science - Immunology
Voltage Gated Potassium channel antibody	Paediatric samples must be red top	blood	Gel Clot (Gold top)	Referred	Referred	WHH	7 weeks	7 days if no immunology already requested, 6 weeks if additional immunology test	room temp	Blood Science - Immunology
Voriconazole levels	Pre-dose, within 5 days of starting therapy	blood	Plain clot (red top)	Referred	Referred	Leeds	10 working days	na	4°C (fridge)	Microbiology
VZV (chicken pox) contact immunity check		blood	Plain Clot (Red top)	90% within 24 hrs	90% within 24 hrs			1 year	4°C (fridge)	Microbiology

TEST	Collection requirement/ Comments	Specimen Type	Container or blood tube	Hospital Turnaround time	GP Turnaround time	Referral centre (if not MTW)	Referred Turnaround time	Time Limit for requesting as extra	Can sample be stored overnight ?	Request Form type/Section`
VZV Occ Health immunity check		blood	Plain Clot (Red top)	90% in 7 working days	90% in 7 working days			1 year	4°C (fridge)	Microbiology

W

TEST	Collection requirement/ Comments	Specimen Type	Container or blood tube	Hospital Turnaround time	GP Turnaround time	Referral centre (if not MTW)	Referred Turnaround time	Time Limit for requesting as extra	Can sample be stored overnight ?	Request Form type/Section`
Whooping Cough	See Pertussis									Microbiology

X

TEST	Collection requirement/ Comments	Specimen Type	Container or blood tube	Hospital Turnaround time	GP Turnaround time	Referral centre (if not MTW)	Referred Turnaround time	Time Limit for requesting as extra	Can sample be stored overnight ?	Request Form type/Section`
Xanthochromia	Samples must reach lab within 1 hour. Protect from the light. See protocol	CSF	See protocol	1 1/2 days Mon-Fri, 9am-5pm	test not available	TWH		not available	no	Blood Science - Chem

Z

TEST	Collection requirement/ Comments	Specimen Type	Container or blood tube	Hospital Turnaround time	GP Turnaround time	Referral centre (if not MTW)	Referred Turnaround time	Time Limit for requesting as extra	Can sample be stored overnight ?	Request Form type/Section`
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Zinc	Please state clinical indication	blood	Trace element bottle (Royal Blue top)	Referred	Referred	Birmingham City Toxicology	8d	not available	no	Blood Science - Chem
Zika Virus	Discuss with Consultant Microbiologist prior to sending sample to ensure compliance with PHE guidelines	blood	Plain Clot (red top) & EDTA (Purple top)	Referred	Referred	Porton Down	90% in 7 working days	1 year	4°C (fridge)	Microbiology