

A blood test involves taking a small sample of blood (usually from a vein near the elbow) which is then analysed at a laboratory to help diagnose an illness, monitor treatment or determine someone's blood group.

**Your blood will be sent to the Hospital for analysis. It will usually take 5 working days for your results to get back to your Doctor.**

*If your test results are **abnormal**, the surgery will contact you.*

*If you tests are **normal**, you will not be contacted, but if you wish to find out the results of your test, please speak to Reception during any weekday afternoon.*

*If your Doctor has asked you to book a follow-up, you should do this, as they may wish to tell you the results of your test in person.*

### FASTING BLOOD TESTS

#### **Prior to your fasting blood test:**

- Have nothing to eat or drink from 8.00 pm the evening before your blood test
- But please allow yourself plenty of water to drink

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*Moatfield Surgery*

# BLOOD TESTS

## Guide for Patients



Listed below are the most common blood tests:

### **FBC Full Blood Count**

It is a good all round measure of health. This test can help your Doctor decide for example whether you have anaemia.

### **ESR Erythrocyte Sedimentation Rate**

This test screens for inflammation or infection and is also used to monitor whether various treatments you may be receiving are working.

### **INR International Normalised Ratio**

This test assesses whether your blood is clotting normally and also measures the effect of Warfarin therapy, a drug used to thin the blood and keep it flowing smoothly.

### **B12 and Folate**

Low levels of Vitamin B12 and folate are linked with a type of anaemia, memory loss and depression.

### **Ferritin**

Is a protein which stores iron in the body and is important for red blood cell production. Low levels of Ferritin can lead to anaemia.

### **Elecs Urea and Electrolytes**

It is frequently used to assess whether the kidneys are working properly or to monitor people who take a range of tablets such as blood pressure medication.

### **LFT Liver Function Test**

It helps to decide whether someone has gallstones, problems with the liver, or whether there is any bone disease.

### **Glucose**

If the level of glucose in the blood is high, it can be a sign of diabetes.

### **HBA1C**

Is the level of blood component that rises if sugar levels in the blood have been persistently raised in the previous months. This may indicate diabetes or the tendency to develop diabetes (known as pre-diabetes).

### **TFT Thyroid Function Test**

This test is used to look at the activity of the thyroid gland, which is responsible for setting the rate at which you produce energy.

### **Chol**

This test can help to determine your risk of developing circulatory or heart problems.

### **CRP C-reactive Protein**

This test indicates inflammation caused by illness, for example during a flare-up of rheumatoid arthritis, following a heart attack, or in people with cancer.

### **Urate**

To diagnose gout and monitor the response to treatment.

### **PSA Prostate Specific Antigen**

This test is a way of checking the activity of the prostate gland. High levels of PSA may be a sign of cancer, but it is often raised in other non-cancerous prostate conditions too. It is not a perfect test for prostate cancer so if your PSA is abnormal you will probably need more tests.