

PATIENT INFORMATION - BLOOD TESTS

Depending on your age, sex and background medical problems, a variety of blood tests may be ordered. Not all tests will be ordered each time. What tests will be ordered will be determined by our doctors based on your age, sex and health status. For most patients <45 years old, "routine" blood tests are not required unless there is a particular concern.

For patients >45 years old, the following are the routine blood tests that we recommend:	
FBC	This is also called a full blood count. It checks for anaemia and other conditions which affect the blood cells.
U&Es	This stands for urea and electrolytes. It is used as a measure of kidney function and a measure of the electrolytes (such as sodium and potassium) in your blood.
HbA1c	This is a test used in the diagnosis and management of diabetes. It measures your blood sugar levels over the past 3 months.
Cholesterol	This measures your blood cholesterol levels, and gives a breakdown of the different types of cholesterol in your blood (HDL "good cholesterol"; LDL "bad cholesterol", triglycerides).

If you would like blood tests other than those listed above, or if you are <45 years old and feel you need a blood test, you must first make an appointment to see one of our doctors; this is so we can determine whether the blood test is appropriate and so we can properly interpret the results.

Some additional blood tests that may be considered, following a consultation with a doctor:	
LFTs	This stands for liver function tests.
TFTs	This stands for thyroid function tests.
PSA	This stands for Prostate Specific Antigen. It is a screening test for prostate cancer and can be used to monitor treatment in those with prostate cancer.
Ferritin	This is a measure of the stores of iron in your blood.
Vit B12/Folic acid	These are B vitamins in your blood. These tests may be considered if you have symptoms of, or risk factors for, vitamin b12 or folate deficiency.

You have had bloods taken. What will happen next?

We should have your results back from the lab within 2 weeks and our doctors will interpret them.

- Most blood results are normal or have mild abnormalities that do not require any action. In these cases, unless you have specified otherwise, we will not contact you.
- If there is something in your blood tests that requires some action (that cannot wait until your next appointment) you will receive a phone call or SMS.
- If there is something in your blood results that requires immediate action or if we require more information to interpret your results a doctor may phone you.

Please do not phone reception for your results. If you were expecting contact regarding your results and 2 weeks have passed without contact, please email info@eastgatemedical.ie

BLOODS TAKEN TODAY	
FBC	
U&Es	
HbA1c	
Cholesterol	
LFTs	
TFTs	
PSA	
Other blood tests	