

Patient information factsheet

Rapid lateral flow test for COVID-19

Information for patients attending C7 ward

This factsheet contains information about the COVID-19 testing procedures for patients receiving anti-cancer treatment and procedures on C7 ward.

What is happening?

Starting from 19 December 2022, patients attending an appointment on C7 ward will be required to perform a rapid lateral flow test for COVID-19 24 hours before their treatment or procedure (previously a PCR swab test was required). Please note that some patients may still be asked by their clinical team to perform a PCR swab test.

About rapid lateral flow tests

Rapid lateral flow tests help to check if someone has COVID-19. Research shows rapid lateral flow tests are a reliable test for COVID-19. They give a quick result and do not need to be sent to a lab. The test usually involves taking a sample from your throat and nose, or from your nose only, using a swab. You get a result in 15 to 30 minutes depending on the type of test you've taken.

You should perform your rapid lateral flow test yourself (or with assistance from a member of your family or a friend) at home, 24 hours before attending your appointment on C7 ward.

How can I get a rapid lateral flow test kit?

It is your responsibility to get a rapid lateral flow test kit and carry out the test yourself at home before coming into hospital for your treatment or procedure.

You will need to order your rapid lateral flow test kit **at least 5 days before** your treatment or procedure.

All patients who are due to have treatment or a procedure in hospital are eligible for a free rapid lateral flow test kit.

Rapid lateral flow test kits are available:

- **online:** via GOV.UK (to order a rapid lateral flow test kit online, please go to: www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests)
- **by telephone:** call **119** and a call handler will place the order for you

In some cases, your healthcare professional may offer to order a test kit for you, and this will be sent directly to your home address. Please note that your healthcare professional will require a valid mobile number to order the test kit.

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When should I take the rapid lateral flow test?

You should take the test at home, **24 hours before your planned treatment or procedure**. You will need to follow the specific instructions included with the test kit on how to take the test.

What should I do after taking the rapid lateral flow test?

If your result is negative

Wherever possible, you should report the test result online at:

www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result or by telephoning **119**. This will generate an email or text message confirmation of the result. You should bring proof of the recent negative test (email or text notification) with you when you attend your appointment on C7 ward.

If you do not have access to email or text notification, you should bring alternate proof of the negative test, which can include:

- a photograph on your smartphone of the negative test result
- your rapid lateral flow test stick (please bring this with you to hospital in a little bag, wrapped in cling film or in a sealed envelope)

If your result is positive

You should telephone the **cancer care treatment scheduling team** on: **023 8120 5987**.

This service has a voicemail facility and you can leave a message. A member of the team will collect the messages every weekday. They will then call you back with advice on what to do.

If you have tested positive and you are unwell, please telephone the Macmillan acute oncology service on: **07867 973649**.

You will also need to report your test result on the government portal (wherever possible).

What should I do if I feel unwell on the day of my treatment or procedure?

If you feel unwell on the day of your treatment or procedure, please call your clinical team using the telephone number on your appointment letter for advice before coming into hospital. Your treatment or procedure may need to be rescheduled.

If you have any of the symptoms below, you should not come to the hospital for your treatment or procedure (unless your clinical team has told you otherwise).

Symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) can include:

- a high temperature or shivering (chills) – a high temperature means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste
- shortness of breath
- feeling tired or exhausted
- an aching body
- a headache
- a sore throat
- a blocked or runny nose
- loss of appetite
- diarrhoea
- feeling sick or being sick

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The symptoms are very similar to symptoms of other illnesses, such as colds and flu.

Contact us

If you have any questions about this advice, or if you have been scheduled for late treatment and you do not have a rapid lateral flow test kit, please contact us via one of the numbers below:

Cancer care treatment scheduling team

Telephone: **023 8120 5987**

Email: **CHOC@uhs.nhs.uk**

Cancer care outpatient booking team

Telephone: **023 8120 6494**

Email: **chemotherapyoutpatients@uhs.nhs.uk**

Macmillan acute oncology service

Telephone: **023 8120 1345**

Useful links

NHS UK

www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19

GOV.UK

www.gov.uk/guidance/living-safely-with-respiratory-infections-including-covid-19

www.gov.uk/guidance/people-with-symptoms-of-a-respiratory-infection-including-covid-19#what-to-do-if-you-have-symptoms-of-a-respiratory-infection-including-covid-19-and-have-not-taken-a-covid-19-test

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For help preparing for your visit, arranging an interpreter or accessing the hospital, please visit **www.uhs.nhs.uk/additionalsupport**