A visual guide to
Blood tests

What is a blood test?

Blood tests are one of the most common types of medical test and can be used to:

- assess your general state of health

- check if you have an infection

- see how well certain organs, such as the liver and kidneys, are working

Arriving for a blood test

Take a ticket from the machine on the wall. This has a number on it.

Sit down in the waiting room until it is your turn.

There is a screen on the wall with numbers on it.

When the number on your ticket shows, it is your turn to have your blood test.

I have taken my ticket 😊

Having a blood test

You will be asked to sit in a chair.

We will check your name and date of birth.

We will pull up your sleeve so we can see the skin on your arm.

We will wrap a stretchy band around your arm and your skin will be cleaned.

We will then put a needle in your arm like this.

This may sting a little bit, but is over quickly.

After we have taken some blood the needle is removed.

I am having my blood test 😊

After your blood test

We will then wipe your arm and put a piece of gauze on it.

If your arm is bleeding we might put a plaster or tape over it.

Your blood sample will be placed in some small tubes and sent to the lab for testing.

Your blood test is now finished and you can leave.

My blood test is finished 😊

My name is: ....

I like to be called: ....

How I communicate:

Tell us about your needs

Don't forget to tell us if you have any additional needs before your appointment. Ways to do this:

- fill out our online form. Visit **www.uhs.nhs.uk** and search for 'preparing for your visit'
- call the number on your appointment letter
- email: **accessible@uhs.nhs.uk**

For an online version of this document, visit **www.uhs.nhs.uk** and search for '**Visual guide to blood tests**'

For a translation of this document, or a version in another format such as easy read, large print, Braille or audio, please telephone **0800 484 0135** or email **patientsupporthub@uhs.nhs.uk**.

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

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