

Covid-19 testing for Medical Outpatient Services

Introduction

NHS England recommends that all people who need to come into hospital for an investigation/ treatment as an outpatient should be tested for Covid-19, whether they have symptoms or not.

Gloucestershire Hospital NHS Foundation Trust supports this recommendation and will offer you a swab for Covid-19 when you attend one of our hospitals so that you get the safest and most appropriate care.

This means we will offer testing to anyone who requires:

- an outpatient admission for a procedure.
- a diagnostic test such as endoscopy as an outpatient.

Process on and during admission

Once your initial assessment and examination has been completed and a decision is made that you are required to attend the hospital as an outpatient, then a Covid-19 test will be offered; even if you do not have any symptoms.

The test involves a swab being taken from the back of your throat and your nose. This may be uncomfortable.

You can choose not to have the test if you wish but this may mean we cannot offer you the treatment/ procedure you require.

It is helpful to know whether you have Covid-19, as this means:

- You will be able to advise your household members and other family or friends so they can make appropriate plans to self-isolate if necessary.
- If you show symptoms within a few days of having been tested, you can be directed to the most appropriate department in the hospital for further care if necessary.
- If you have to stay in hospital after your result is known, we can make sure that you are cared for in a way that protects you, staff and other patients from picking up the virus.

Reference No.

GHPI1597_08_20

Department

Outpatient
Services

Review due

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Patient Information

Where will the testing take place?

An administrator will contact you to book a day and time that is convenient. The service will be running 7 days a week at Cheltenham General Hospital.

West Block Outpatients

Monday to Friday, 8:00am to 1:00pm

Ambulatory Emergency Care

Saturday and Sunday, 8:00am to 1:00pm

Please follow the signs to avoid entering the Minor Injuries Illness Unit.

When would I find out the result?

Test results should normally be available within 24 to 48 hours. We are working towards having point of care testing (where we can test you on the day of your appointment) in the future, which will mean results will be available earlier.

If the test is positive you will be contacted by a team member to inform you of this. **Please note if the test result is negative you will not be contacted.**

How will my care change if I test positive?

If you test positive for Covid-19, your clinical team will be informed of your result. They will contact you if any changes are required to the care you receive as it may mean that your appointment(s) will need to be rebooked for a later date. For example, if you have a routine appointment, this would need to be rebooked for when your period of self-isolation ends.

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