

Routine HIV screening at Blackpool Teaching Hospital in the Emergency Department

Patient Information Leaflet



This leaflet provides information on the HIV Screening Programme at Blackpool Teaching Hospital (BTH) in the Emergency Department (ED)

If you require blood test whilst attending the ED at BTH screening for HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus) will be carried at the same time.

Why am I being screened for HIV?

HIV is a long term manageable medical condition and it is important to diagnose HIV as early as possible for the best possible outcomes on health.

In line with NICE (National Institute for Health and Care Excellence) 2017, it is best practice to offer HIV screens to all patients between the ages of 16-79 years old when they attend ED in areas like Blackpool where HIV is more common.

HIV screening at BTH is an “opt out test”. This means your blood will be screened for HIV alongside any blood test requested by ED. If you do not wish to be screened for HIV, inform the nurse taking your blood.

We believe this is the safest approach as many people do not realise they have been at risk of HIV infection and symptoms can take many years to develop.

Will I get my result if the test is negative?

No – we will not contact you if your results are negative for HIV infection. We aim to process results within one week.

What happens if my HIV test is positive?

If your routine screening is positive, you will be contacted directly and as soon as possible. This will be in hospital if you have been admitted as a patient or at home if you have been discharged.

It may come as unexpected to find out you test positive, however, it is worse for your health to be unaware of a positive HIV result and not have appropriate treatment. The drug therapy for HIV is extremely safe, effective and allows your body to repair the damage to your immune system.

Sometimes a test result may need repeating as the result is unclear. This means it is neither positive nor negative. In this case we need to see you again to repeat the blood test. This will be arranged done by our HIV Team.

What if I don't want to know my HIV status?

Many people do not realise they have been at risk of infection, which is why it is so important for us to screen as many people as possible.

It is always better to have the HIV screen and know your status. However, if you decide you don't want to know please speak to the member of staff who is taking your blood and they will cancel your HIV screen.

If you are worried about getting a positive result or have further questions relating to HIV, we can arrange for you to see one of the HIV Team for a more in-depth discussion.

What if my contact details change?

It is important we have your correct contact details in case we need to speak to you about your screen.

Please make sure we have recorded the correct contact details, and if they change in the week following your test, let us know by calling the ED secretaries 01253 953517 so as we can update your hospital records.

Does having an HIV test affect my ability to get life insurance or a mortgage?

No – having a negative HIV test has no effect on getting life insurance or a mortgage. Even with a positive HIV result you should not have difficulty getting personal/medical insurance, loans or mortgages. Insurance companies have understood for many years HIV is a long-term health condition and people do very well on treatment with normal life expectancies.

'It's Time to know Your Status!'

To make an appointment with our HIV Team please contact them directly on 01253 951924

Alternatively access the BTH website: www.bfwh.nhs.uk/our-services/ chose Sexual Health in the Community Services listed and open this link.

Or access the following link directly.

<https://lancashiresexualhealth.nhs.uk/>

PLEASE NOTE IF WE ARE UNABLE TO CONTACT YOU IN THE EVENT OF A POSITIVE RESULT WE WILL CONTACT YOUR GP

HIV useful sources of information:

- **Terrence Higgins Trust**

Terrence Higgins Trust is the leading and largest HIV & sexual Health charity in the UK, able to offer advice and support for people with HIV their families, friends and significant others.

Tel: 0808 802 1221

Email: info@tht.org.uk

Website: www.tht.org.uk

- **National Aids Map (NAM)**

NAM changes lives by sharing information about HIV & AIDS. We believe independent, clear and accurate information is vital in the fight against HIV & AIDS

- NAM provides useful information on HIV and AIDS.
- Tel: 020 7837 6988 e: info@nam.org.uk
- Website: www.aidsmap.com

Contact us if you have any questions or concerns about routine HIV testing. Please contact our HIV team on 01253 951924 or visit our page on the Trust website: www.bfwh.nhs.uk

For more information leaflets on conditions, procedures, treatments and services offered at our hospitals, please visit: www.bfwh.nhs.uk/patients-and-visitors/patient-leaflets

Useful contact details

Hospital Switchboard: **01253 300000**

Patient Relations Department

The Patient Relations Department offers impartial advice and deals with any concerns or complaints the Trust receives. You can contact them via tel: **01253 955588** or by email: **bfwh.patientrelations@nhs.net**

You can also write to us at: **Patient Relations Department, Blackpool Victoria Hospital, Whinney Heys Road, Blackpool FY3 8NR**

Further information is available on our website: **www.bfwh.nhs.uk**

References

Details of the references used in writing this leaflet are available on request from: **Procedural Document and Leaflet Coordinator 01253 953397** or **bfwh.trustpolicyteam@nhs.net**

Options available

If you'd like a large print, audio, Braille or a translated version of this leaflet then please call: **01253 955520**



Our Four Values:

