THE DOCTORS LABORATORY

Blood tests for children

Patient Information Sheet

Who will collect the blood sample?

All samples are collected by two phlebotomists who are specifically trained in paediatric venepuncture. Parents may be asked to seat the child in their lap to help soothe them and remain still during the test. Very young children and babies may be swaddled in a blanket.

How much blood will you collect?

This depends on the type and number of tests required. The phlebotomist will check the recommended maximum sample volume based on your child's age and weight.

Will the blood test hurt my child?

The blood test involves a small butterfly needle being inserted, usually in the crook of the arm. There may be some discomfort when the needle is inserted, similar to a vaccination.

We offer different types of pain relief to minimise discomfort for your child. Ametop gel is an anaesthetic cream that is applied to the arm 40 minutes before the blood test, making it numb for 4-6 hours. Alternatively, Cryogesic spray can be sprayed on the arm, reducing pain by cooling the skin for a few seconds. These products are used for children of a certain age, please ask the phlebotomist for further information.

Distraction is an effective method to reduce pain and anxiety during a blood test. If possible explain the procedure to your child a day or two before the test. Agree on a method of distraction with your child, for example playing a thinking game like I Spy, deep breathing, watching a video on a mobile device or singing a song.

What are the side-effects?

Bruising can occur at the site of the blood test. To reduce the risk of bruising, apply firm pressure for at least 1 to 2 minutes after the test as directed by the phlebotomist. There is a very small risk of infection, please see your GP if the site becomes red or sore.

Children who feel faint during/after a test will be encouraged to lie down to prevent fainting.

All phlebotomists are experienced and trained in paediatric blood tests, however occasionally it may be difficult to find a vein and more than one attempt may be needed to obtain a sample. Ensuring your child is well hydrated before the test can help prevent this.

We advise no further blood tests for at least 3 days.

What happens if we are unable to collect a blood sample?

We will always do our best to collect your child's blood sample as carefully as possible. However, if we are unable to collect a sample after two attempts or 30 minutes, whichever comes first, we will stop the procedure and suggest that we reschedule.

We may also need to stop sooner if your child becomes very distressed or is moving in a way that makes taking the sample difficult to continue. This protects your child and our phlebotomy team from the risk of injury and to minimise any further discomfort or distress.

If we are unable to complete the blood collection, we will recommend rearranging the appointment for another date.

When will I receive the results?

This will vary between tests. Results will be sent back to the referring clinician as they are available, please check with your doctor regarding results.

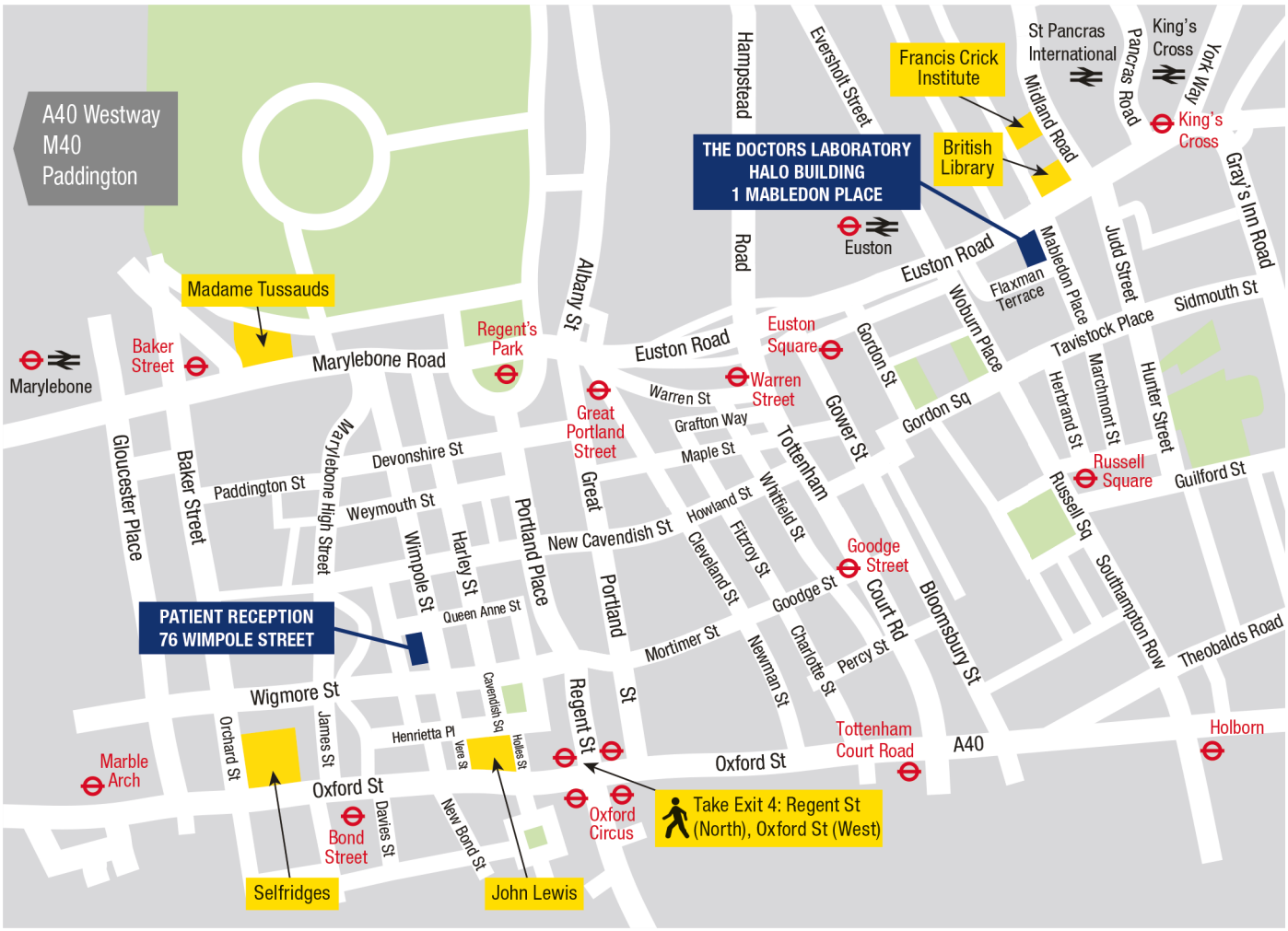
What if I need to add more tests?

If additional tests are required these will need to be requested by the clinician. As different blood tubes are used for certain tests, the referral form should be finalised before the blood draw.

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PATIENT RECEPTION

76 Wimpole Street, London W1G 9RT
Telephone: 020 7307 7383
Email: patientreception@tdlpathology.com

OPENING TIMES

Monday to Friday 7am – 7pm
Saturday 7am – 1pm
Sunday (Children over 14) 8am–11am

OUT OF HOURS SAMPLES

Out of hours samples can be dropped off at
Patient Reception, 76 Wimpole Street
London W1G 9RT

Or at the main laboratory:
The Halo Building, 1 Mabledon Place
London WC1H 9AX

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