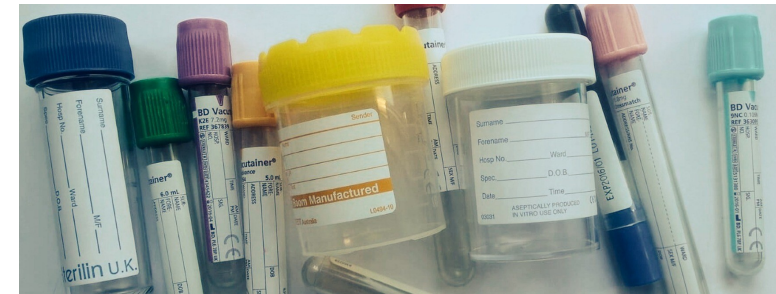


# Pathology Patient Guide



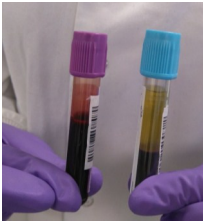
Pathology is the study of disease and disease processes. It is estimated that 70% of all diagnoses are based on the results provided by staff working in pathology laboratories.

The pathology department at University Hospital of South Manchester (Wythenshawe Hospital) provides a diagnostic service to GP surgeries in the South Manchester area. We cover a population of 570,000 patients and receive 4,500 samples every day.

Your doctor or healthcare professional will send samples to us to help them discover what is causing the symptoms or illness you are experiencing. The results we send will guide them in how to treat your illness or symptoms.


There are many different sample types that can be used to diagnose an illness. The most common pathology sample you will give consent to have taken is blood. You may be asked to provide a urine sample, have swabs taken or have samples of tissue taken from you. By agreeing to have samples taken you are consenting to have them tested. We may have to share your details with other laboratories that we refer specialised tests to. Your care provider may contact us by telephone to add extra tests. If you object to this, please discuss this with your care provider.

Your GP or requesting doctor may take samples from you at their surgery. Or they may arrange for you to come to the hospital to have this done. They will explain any special requirements, such as fasting (not eating), before having your samples taken.



## Haematology

Haematology is the study of blood cells and the clotting activity of blood. The diagnosis and monitoring of blood diseases is carried out using automated analysers and microscopes. Most test results are available within 24 hours, however some more complex tests may take up to four weeks.



## Transfusion

The blood transfusion laboratory provides blood and blood products for patients with diseases of the blood and for those who are bleeding. Individual patient blood groups are identified and checked against the donor blood to ensure a safe transfusion.

## Contacting us

If you have any queries about your samples, tests or results **please contact the doctor/healthcare professional** who requested the tests. We cannot discuss these with you.

We would hope that you do not have any cause to complain about the service we offer. However, in the event that you have a complaint please contact the Patient Experience Team (PALS). Their details can be found on this website:  
<http://www.uhsm.nhs.uk/patients/Pages/PET.aspx>

Further information about the pathology service is available on the UHSM pathology website:  
<http://www.uhsm.nhs.uk/pathology/Pages/home.aspx>

If you would like to tell us about your experience with the pathology service please use these details:  
[pathology.QM@uhsm.nhs.uk](mailto:pathology.QM@uhsm.nhs.uk)  
 ☎ 0161 291 4786

Pathology Quality Manager  
 Clinical Sciences Building  
 Southmoor Road  
 Wythenshawe  
 M23 9LT

## Samples for pathology

If you have been asked to bring your own sample to the laboratory, you can deliver it to the Clinical Sciences Building on Southmoor Road, opposite the main outpatients department. There is a hatch here where you can speak to the staff and leave your sample and the completed request form your doctor has given you.

If you need to have blood taken you may be asked to come to the blood room/phlebotomy at the hospital.

## Results

The best person to discuss the results with is the person who requested the tests, and not the laboratory. This is because the significance of test results may mean different things in different people and the person requesting the test is the one who knows about you.

Refer to your GP or requesting doctor for indicative times for results and for any special requirements needed for the investigation you are undergoing.



## Blood room/phlebotomy

At Wythenshawe Hospital the phlebotomy department is located on the first floor of the outpatients building. Take the stairs on the left when you enter through entrance 5.

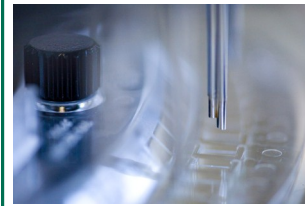
**Please note:** GP patients must make an appointment before attending the blood room.

Options for having blood samples taken can be found on this website: <http://www.uhsm.nhs.uk/patients/Pages/Phlebotomy.aspx>



## Point of Care Testing

Point of Care Testing is defined as a laboratory test performed by a healthcare professional at the patient's bedside. They are performed when tests are urgent and need to be processed quickly. The pathology department oversee these devices and provide clear guidelines for their use.



## Clinical Biochemistry

This is the study of the body's chemistry in relation to disease and disease management mostly through the analysis of body fluids such as blood or urine.

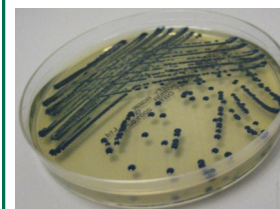
The vast majority of test results are available within 48 hours. For complex tests it may be up to two weeks. The laboratory at UHSM is very specialised, providing a service locally, regionally and nationally.



## Histology

This is the diagnosis of different diseases from tissue specimens. These range from small pieces of tissue such as skin biopsies to large organs (or part of).

From these tissue specimens, thin sections are taken and placed onto glass slides, which are stained using dyes and analysed by pathologists. From these slides, a diagnosis is made and report issued.



## Microbiology

The Microbiology laboratory detects infections in a wide range of samples. They also determine which antimicrobials (antibiotics and related drugs) will be effective treatments.

The time taken to report results in microbiology varies greatly because of the time taken for micro-organisms to grow in the laboratory.

The Mycology Reference Centre has its laboratory at UHSM. Amongst other activities it assists local GPs in investigating mouldy houses. It also provides a specialist candida (thrush) vaginitis clinic.