



## Portland Practice and Hatherley Surgery

### Blood Test changes.

From 1<sup>st</sup> July 2020 we will no longer be provided with phlebotomists to take patient blood tests at the surgery and we will no longer be contracted to carry out hospital blood tests (except in some specific cases). These changes were brought in by Gloucestershire CCG and were not of our own making.

#### From 1<sup>st</sup> July 2020 patients who ARE able to have blood tests in the surgery:

- **Patients over 12 years of age with a blood test form generated by the GP surgery**, your GP wants you to have the blood test
- **Patients who have been under the hospital as an inpatient or an outpatient and who have been DISCHARGED back to the GP**, the patient will not be followed up further by the hospital and the results are to go back to the GP as the hospital is no longer involved
- **Patients who have a shared care agreement**, you take a specific medication and there is an ongoing agreement with the hospital consultant and the GP that the surgery will take blood tests to monitor you long term once you have been stabilised on the medication.

#### From 1 July 2020 patients who ARE NO LONGER able to have blood tests at the surgery:

- **Children 1-5 years of age** – go to paediatric outpatients with the blood form, this gives them an age appropriate service. This is not a change.
- **Children 6-11 years of age** - go to Cheltenham (or Gloucester) Hospital phlebotomy department with the blood form, this gives them an age appropriate service. This is not a change.
- **Patients who are under ongoing hospital care for a condition when the consultant has asked for the test** – go to Cheltenham (or Gloucester) Hospital phlebotomy department with the blood form provided by the hospital. You may need to contact your specialist's secretary at the hospital if you do not already have a form – they can post it out to you. The test results will then go back to your hospital consultant.
- **Patients who have seen a private consultant** cannot have the tests converted to NHS. The test must be arranged and taken in the private hospital or clinic where it was requested. We are not contracted to provide non-NHS tests.
- **We do not take private blood tests**. This is not a change.
- **Housebound patients** – there are no changes to the district nursing blood service. NB this service remains available only for patients who are genuinely housebound.
- **Patients who we cannot obtain blood from despite trying**. We will usually try twice to obtain your blood but sometimes this is very difficult and we are really sorry if we cannot obtain it. If this happens you may be referred to the hospital service who will try again.
- **Complex pathology tests** that need immediate processing in the lab. This would be a rare event but your doctor will inform you if your specific test can only be taken in hospital.

We appreciate this will not be welcome news for some patients. However we are commissioned to provide specific NHS services and it is only reasonable that we follow these contractual obligations in order to allow fair access for all our NHS patients. If you want to complain to the GCCG about this then they can be contacted by phone on 0800 0151 548 or on this email address: [glccg.pals@nhs.net](mailto:glccg.pals@nhs.net)