

Blood Borne Infection Information and Consent Form for Young People

The doctor who has recently assessed your health has recommended that you have a blood test. The blood test is looking for the following infections: Hepatitis B; Hepatitis C; Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), and Syphilis. It is your decision whether to have the blood test and we want you to be fully aware of why this test has been recommended before you agree to the test.

Information on these infections

What is Hepatitis B virus?

Hepatitis B is a virus that causes swelling and loss of function (inflammation) of the liver, which can result in damage that may lead to scarring of the liver and increased risk of liver cancer in some people.

What is Hepatitis C virus?

Hepatitis C is also a virus that causes swelling and loss of function (inflammation) of the liver. The majority of people infected will get only mild liver damage. However, in some people hepatitis C progresses over 20–30 years to cause serious liver damage.

What is HIV?

HIV is a virus that attacks the body's defence against infection (immune system) making it vulnerable, over time, to infections that a healthy immune system would fight off.

What is Syphilis?

Syphilis is a bacterial infection that in adults initially causes sores and then progresses to give rashes and generalised symptoms. Over many years, untreated syphilis can cause serious damage to many systems in the body and may result in death. Congenital syphilis (babies and children who acquire syphilis from their mothers during pregnancy) can result in multisystem organ damage (e.g. to the brain, bones, teeth and eyes).

Why would you have these infections?

Children and young people who have these infections usually have had the infection transmitted from their mother during pregnancy or after birth. These infections are also passed from person to person by sexual intercourse, or from sharing needles or other equipment when using drugs. Your doctor may also be concerned that you have come from a country with a high rate of these infections.



Why is it useful to know if you have an infection in the blood?

Due to improvements in the treatment of Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C, HIV and Syphilis infections, there are real advantages in finding out whether you have these infections. Children and young people who have contracted these

infections from their mothers or for other reasons can remain in good health for many years so they may not realise that they have an infection. There are treatments available for these infections that enable people to have healthy lives. However, without treatment and monitoring, all of these infections can cause people to become severely ill or even die. It is also important to know if you have an infection so that you can take extra precautions to prevent passing this infection onto another person.

It is not uncommon for people to have more than one of these infections at the same time, which is why we recommend that you be tested for all four of the infections.

Practicalities of testing

You will be seen by a doctor or nurse for the blood to be taken and the results will be ready usually within three weeks. Your GP will be informed of the results and you will be asked how you want to be told of the results e.g. by telephone, by letter or face-to-face etc. If you have concerns about this, please discuss with your doctor or social worker.

What will happen if you have one of these infections in your blood?

If you have one of these infections your health will need to be monitored and for some of the infections treatment is available. You will need to be seen by a specialist doctor and this will be arranged for you.

Who will know whether I have an infection?

The results of your blood test are confidential between you and your doctor and only you can decide who you want to know about this. However it is important that you have support in managing your health so you may want to discuss this with a trusted adult.



CONSENT FOR BLOOD BORNE INFECTION TESTING

To be completed by the examining health professional and retained within the young person's health record.

Consent by the young person with capacity to consent is essential.

Does the young person have capacity to consent? Yes/No

If not then consent will need to be sought from a senior social work manager (this is not the young person's social worker)

Has the young person undertaken any of the following activity to support their understanding of blood borne infections and consent?

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| a) Read the printed leaflet | Yes/No |
| b) Watched a Podcast on blood borne infections | Yes/No |
| c) Conversation with their interpreter prior to the appointment | Yes/No |
| d) Other information | Yes/No |

Consent by the young person	
I understand the need for a blood test to look for Hepatitis B, C, HIV and syphilis and I agree to the blood test. I understand that following this blood test I will be informed of the results and if there is a positive result I will be referred to a specialist doctor.	
Signature young person	Date
Signature of the interpreter	Date
Signature of the examining health professional	Date

