**Covid-19 – A Guide to Phlebotomy**

In light of the current Covid-19 pandemic there have been some changes to the Phlebotomy services across Derbyshire. This document sets out to provide details of how the service is currently operating.

Prioritisation

The following are the locally agreed principles for phlebotomy testing across Derbyshire during the Covid-19 pandemic.

* Routine “clinically urgent and essential” tests – new or ongoing presentations
* Cancer patients requiring bloods prior to further cycle of chemo
* All patients taking drugs for DMARD / high risk drugs - monitoring needs to be continued where possible
* Other exceptional circumstances; drug titration for heart failure patients
* Wound management as needed
* INR checks. NHS guidance for the management of anticoagulant services during the coronavirus pandemic is attached below:



Drug Monitoring

Below is a copy of the Specialist Pharmacy Service guidance on the management of drugs requiring monitoring during Covid-19. This has been agreed by the DDLMC and the DDCCG Clinical Cell.



North Derbyshire / Hardwick

All practices (Green Hubs) based in North Derbyshire will continue to provide phlebotomy services in line with the commissioned Basket of Services.

Erewash

All practices (Green Hubs) based in Erewash apart from Aitune and Golden Brook Medical Practices will continue to provide phlebotomy services in line with the commissioned Basket of Services.

Phlebotomy for Aitune and Golden Brook patients is provided at Long Eaton Health Centre.

Southern Derbyshire and Derby City

Some practices have practice employed phlebotomists alternatively UHDBFT / Derbyshire Pathology provide Phlebotomy services at the following clinics:

* Coleman Health Centre, Derby (from 8.15 until 1.15 pm Monday to Friday)
* St Oswalds Hospital, Ashbourne (from 8.30 until 12.30 pm Tuesday and Thursday)
* Royal Derby Hospital (from 7.30 am until 16.30 pm Monday to Friday)
* London Road Hospital (from 7 am until 16.30 pm Monday to Friday)
* Heanor – Old Fire Station (from 7.30 am until 12.30 am Monday to Friday)
* Babington Hospital, Belper (from 8 – 12.30 pm Monday to Friday)

A booking system called Swiftqueue is up and running at all locations above for patients, GP’s and outpatient departments to book into. This process helps to manage social distancing.

See below; Service Poster, Patient Leaflet, UHDBFT Letter to GPs and Swiftqueue Booking Guide:

   

**The service at UHDBFT also provides a walk-in phlebotomy service, which will provide an opportunity for those patients who do not have access to online booking facilities.**

The following sites are not currently offering phlebotomy owing to concerns about very small waiting room facilities and staffing levels:

* Revive Surgery, Derby
* Peartree Medical Practice, Derby,
* Village Surgery, Derby,
* Ilkeston Community Hospital
* Ripley Community Hospital

DCHS

Provide phlebotomy services to 5 GP Practices in south of county as a subcontractor to the GP’s.

Domiciliary blood tests for the completely housebound delivered by “integrated care team” (District Nursing) as part of package of care on a referral basis – extremely limited capacity.

Specialist Community Heart Failure team provide phlebotomy for a cohort of shielded heart failure patients in the patient’s homes.

Nursing Homes

Phlebotomy in nursing Homes is carried out by the nursing staff in the homes.

Residential Homes

DCHS provide phlebotomy in residential homes

Point of Care Testing

All point of Care Testing has ceased during the current Covid-19 pandemic.