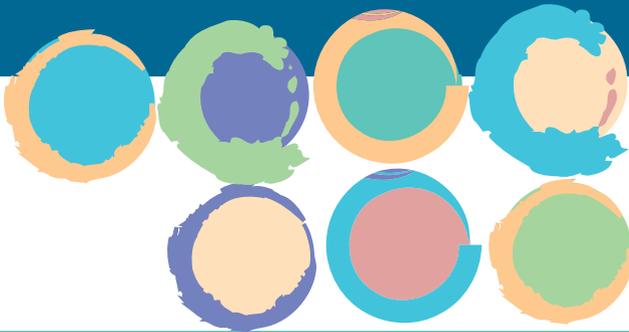


Blood Borne Virus Testing

SANDYFORD

caring about sexual, reproductive and emotional health



www.sandyford.org

Telephone 0141 211 8130



1. What are Blood Borne Viruses?

Blood Borne Viruses (BBVs) are found in blood and other body fluids. You can only get a BBV from someone who is already infected and only if it gets into your bloodstream. Many people do not have any symptoms and they are not aware that they are living with a BBV. The three main blood borne viruses are:

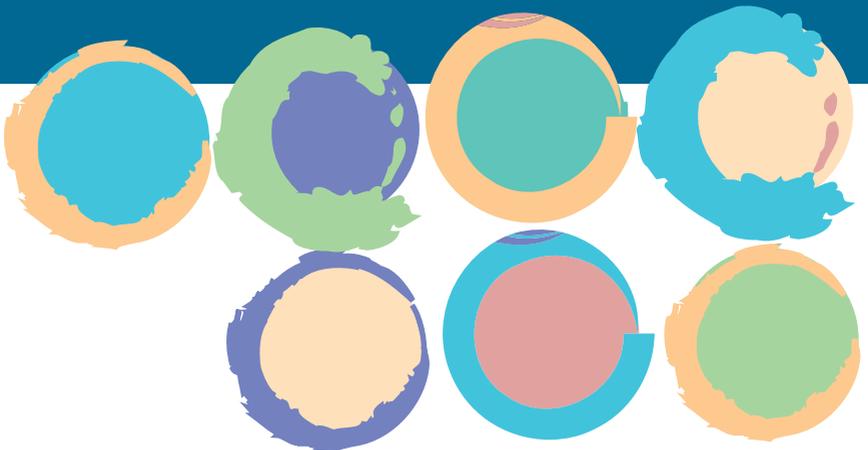
- HIV
- Hepatitis B
- Hepatitis C

HIV, Hepatitis B, and Hepatitis C can cause significant personal and public health problems but if they are diagnosed, effective treatment exists for all of these infections and most people will live healthy lives.

HIV

The most common way to get HIV is from having sex without a condom. It can also be spread from direct blood to blood contact, for example, from contaminated injecting equipment or from medical treatment in a country where infection control procedures are poor. HIV can also be passed from a mother to her baby at delivery or during breastfeeding.

There is no vaccine or cure for HIV but effective treatment is available that suppresses the virus and keeps people well.



Hepatitis B (HBV)

Hepatitis B is the most infectious of the BBVs and can be contracted from having unprotected sex, from direct blood to blood contact as with HIV and Hepatitis C and can also be passed from a mother to her baby during delivery. Effective treatments are available that can suppress the amount of virus in your body. There is a vaccine available for Hepatitis B. Speak to your health care worker about whether vaccination is right for you. If you are diagnosed with infectious Hepatitis B all sexual contacts and household contacts will require to be vaccinated.

Hepatitis C (HCV)

In the UK the most frequent way to get Hepatitis C is through injecting drug use – sharing needles, syringes and other equipment used to take drugs. It can also be spread from unsterile medical treatment in countries with poor infection control or from tattooing and piercing where hygiene is not good. Sexual transmission can happen but is not very common. Mother to child transmission is also rare. There is no vaccine for Hepatitis C but effective treatments are available that can clear the virus in the majority of people who complete a course of therapy.



2. Why should I test?

You can't tell by looking at someone if they have a BBV and so the only way to know if you have a BBV is by having a test. You should have a test for HIV, Hepatitis B or Hepatitis C if you:

Risk	HIV	Hep C	Hep B
Have had unprotected sex with a man or a woman	✓		✓
Have ever injected drugs, even if it was a long time ago	✓	✓	✓
Have had medical treatment in a country where equipment was not sterile or where infection control procedures are poor	✓	✓	✓
Have had a body piercing or tattoo in conditions that were unsterile	✓	✓	✓

The sooner you know about any infection the better. If you do have a BBV, you will be referred to specialist treatment and care services to make decisions about your health and receive support and advice about how to protect yourself and others.



3. What is the test?

A test for HIV, Hepatitis B or Hepatitis C will normally involve a blood test. A small amount of blood is taken, usually from your arm. This is then sent off to the laboratory where they will run a series of tests to look for the viruses. In some services you might be offered an alternative test such as near patient test also known as a finger prick test.



4. Where can I get a test?

Testing is free and confidential in all NHS services. There are a range of places to get a test including Sandyford Sexual Health Services, your GP and Addiction Services. Most services operate during the week during 'office' hours but some will offer evening or same day results services. Details of the services are listed at the end of this leaflet.



5. How do I access testing services?

You can either phone or visit the service to make an appointment for a time that suits you. Some services have open access or walk in clinics. Please check the website prior to attending the service to see if this is available.



6. Testing Services in NHS GGC

a) Sandyford Services

For most adult services, Sandyford has a single point of contact for all appointments and enquiries. To book an appointment or for advice or information, please call on **0141 211 8130** before coming in to Sandyford.

i) Sandyford Central

2-6 Sandyford Place

Glasgow G3 7NB

Tel: 0141 211 8130

ii) Sandyford local clinics are located in the following areas:

Area Location	Telephone
Drumchapel: Drumchapel Health Centre	0141 211 8130
Clydebank: Clydebank Health Centre	0141 211 8130
East Dunbartonshire: Kirkintilloch Health and Care Centre	0141 211 8130
East Glasgow: Parkhead Health Centre	0141 211 8130
Easterhouse: Easterhouse Health Centre	0141 211 8130
East Renfrewshire: Barrhead Health and Care Centre	0141 211 8130
Inverclyde: Greenock Health Centre	0141 211 8130
North: Springburn Health Centre	0141 211 8130
South East Glasgow: Govanhill Health Centre	0141 211 8130
South West Glasgow: Pollok Health Centre	0141 211 8130
Castlemilk: Castlemilk Health Centre	0141 211 8130
West Dunbartonshire: Ground Floor, Old Maternity Block, Vale of Leven Hospital	0141 211 8130
Sandyford Clydebank: Clydebank Health Centre	0141 211 8130

iii) Steve Retson Project

A dedicated sexual health service for men who have sex with men operating from Sandyford Central and also from a community venue in Glasgow City Centre. Call for information on opening times and venues. Same day testing and results services are available with the use of near patient HIV testing kits also known as “finger prick” tests.

Telephone: **0141 211 8628**

Website: **www.steveretsonproject.org.uk**

email: **SteveRetsonProject@ggc.scot.nhs.uk**

Consult the website for locations and opening times of all services.

b) Addiction Services

i) Glasgow Addiction Services

Community Addiction Teams provide testing to existing addiction clients in a range of settings across the City. Speak to your addiction worker for more information.

ii) Renfrewshire Drug Services

Back Sneddon Centre, Paisley, PA3 2DJ

Telephone: 0300 300 1199

iii) Inverclyde Integrated Drugs Service

128 Cathcart Street Greenock PA15 1BQ

Telephone: 01475 499000

iv) Leven Addiction Services

Open to the public for confidential testing. Dumbarton Joint Hospital, Cardross Road, Dumbarton G82 5JA

Telephone: 01389 812018

c) Brownlee BBV Testing Service

Gartnavel Hospital, 1053 Great Western Road, Glasgow, G12 0YN

Telephone: 0141 211 1089

Website: www.brownleehiv.org/



Leaflets in this series:

Blood Borne Virus Testing

Information for patients waiting for BBV results

If you are told your BBV tests are negative ... what next?

Information for people newly diagnosed with HIV

**Information for people diagnosed with active
Hepatitis C infection**

**Information for people diagnosed with active
Hepatitis B infection**

Basic Information on HIV

If you would like this document in large print, Braille or audio format or in another language, please contact:

Jeśli chcesz uzyskać te informacje w innym języku skontaktuj się z:

Eğer bu bilgiyi bir başka dilde istiyorsanız lütfen bağlantı kurunuz:

اگر آپ یہ معلومات کسی اور زبان میں حاصل کرنا چاہتے ہیں تو براہ مہربانی رابطہ کریں:

ਜੇਕਰ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਕਿਸੇ ਦੂਜੀ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਵਿਚ ਚਾਹੀਦੀ ਹੈ ਤਾਂ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਸੰਪਰਕ ਕਰੋ:

إذا رغبت في الحصول على هذه المعلومات بلغة أخرى، الرجاء الاتصال بـ:

اگر این اطلاعات را به زبانی دیگر میخواهید لطفاً با این آدرس تماس بگیرید:

如果您需要该信息的其它语言版本，请联系：

Contact Sandyford by phone:  0141 211 8130

