



Hepatitis & HIV Testing

What are Hepatitis B and C?

Both Hepatitis B and C are viruses which affect the liver. Without a test, you may not know that you are infected as many people have no symptoms. If the test is positive, we can offer you specialist help and treatment. If we do not know that you are positive we cannot offer you treatment.

What is HIV?

The Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) is a virus that attacks the body's immune system and destroys its defences against infection and disease. Without a test you may not know you have been infected as many people do not have symptoms, or do not have symptoms until the disease is advanced. If the test is positive we can offer you specialist help and treatment. If we do not know that you are positive we cannot offer you treatment.

Why Should I Get The Test?

Excluding or identifying infection early is in your best interest as this allows us to offer advice on prevention and treatment. It will also allow you to take steps to reduce the risk of spreading the infection to others.

Taking the test has no implication to current life insurance policies, but a positive test may need to be declared. In Scotland, treatment for HIV and hepatitis is free whatever your immigration status. The Equality Act 2010 protects people living with HIV from discrimination at work in the UK.

The Test:

Tests for Hepatitis B, C and HIV are confidential. The blood sample is sent to the laboratory and the result is usually back within 2 weeks. You may phone for the result, and we may also send you a letter or call you if necessary.

The Result:

A positive test means that you have come into contact with the virus and further blood tests will be required to confirm this. You will be provided with further details in this case.

A negative test means that you do not have the infection. However, some infections can take up to 6 months to be detectable in your blood. If you think that you may have been infected in the past 6 months please let us know and we can repeat the test in 6 months time.

Remember, just because you are free from infection today does not mean that you cannot be infected in the future. You can avoid transmission of Blood Borne Viruses by:

ALWAYS:

- Use a condom when having sexual intercourse
- Go to a licensed practitioner if you are getting a tattoo, piercing or other procedure involving skin puncture
- Keep cuts and wounds clean and covered with a waterproof dressing
- Wear rubber gloves to clean up blood spills

NEVER:

- Share needles, syringes, water or any other paraphernalia if you use or inject drugs
- Share toothbrushes or razors

ELLON GROUP PRACTICE - BBV TESTING



BBV Testing Offer

The Ellon Group Practice offers testing for Hepatitis B, C and HIV to all new patients joining the surgery. This is seen as good medical practice.

There are now effective treatments available for these infections but you cannot benefit from this without the relevant diagnosis. It is estimated that 50% of people who have Hepatitis C, 25% of those infected with HIV and the majority of people who have Hepatitis B remain undiagnosed.

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If you wish to be tested, the blood test can be carried out at your new patient appointment. We do hope that you take up this opportunity.

Please tick if you wish to have the blood test for HIV/Hepatitis B and C