

Investigations

Acute

Lab Tests (Haematology, Biochemistry, Microbiology) – Please use the universal precautionary measures when dealing with blood and blood products and potentially body fluids and dispose of any sharps used safely. Fill in all patient details on the form including brief clinical details, time and specific tests requested. Mark them “Acute” clearly and sign the forms. There is an air-tube system in the Central Area and on Ward 1. To dispatch the specimen to the relevant laboratories. Specimens contained in glass bottles should not be sent via the airtube, these should be taken to the relevant lab by the Porters. When on duty Clinical Support Workers can be requested to perform these laboratory tests for you. The arterial blood gas machine is situated in the Central Area next to Bay 4, which you should learn to use as soon as possible.

Blood Bank – Please use the unique identification system when requesting group and save serum or requesting blood or blood products.

Radiology & Imaging – Plain x-rays done within the department or Accident & Emergency X-ray Department can be requested directly on the Accident & Emergency card by using the rubber stamp. All other investigations including IVU, Ultrasound, CT scan, MRI scan will have to be requested on the specific form available in all clinical areas. Please record your interpretation of the x-rays in the Accident & Emergency card. If needed opinion can be sought from the Senior in the department or Mon-Fri 9am – 5pm by a Radiologist in the main X-ray Department in the hot reporting room. All x-rays performed in the Accident & Emergency Department are reported by the Radiologist the next day. All positive and negative x-rays are sent back to be audited by the SpRs in Accident & Emergency who at times may recall the patient or contact the GP who may have been treated or discharged inappropriately. You will be given a feedback on these on a regular basis.

The results from Haematology and Biochemistry labs are reported on the results server in Bay 1 and Bay 4. Results of urgent microscopy from the Microbiology Lab are usually phoned through.

ECG's are performed by the Nurses or the Clinical Support Worker when requested. For patients with pace makers that require checking, contact the ECG technician on call.