

Patient Test Results information Leaflet

Test Results

If the clinician has requested that you have some tests, they will make a plan with you about what to do next. If you have not been given a plan, please ask for one to help you manage your problem effectively.

We have a dedicated administration team who will contact you directly if the doctor has requested some further action following the results. The administration team have been trained to give out results but are unable to give you clinical advice, which is why it is important for you to make sure you understand why the clinician has asked for the tests and you have been given a plan.

When will my results come back?

Blood Tests

TEST	Time for Result
Routine blood test includes blood count & kidney liver blood tests	3 working days
Diabetes blood test (Hba1c)	1 week
Rheumatoid Arthritis blood test	1 week
Coeliac blood test (endomysial antibody)	2 weeks
Vitamin D blood test	3 weeks

Other tests will take

TEST	Time for Result
Chest xray	10 days
Ultrasound scan	10 days
Helicobacter faeces test	1 – 2 weeks

Urine sample	2 working days
Sputum sample	2 working days
Stool sample	2 working days
Skin scraping	3-4 weeks
Nail clippings	3-4 weeks
Vaginal swab test	2 working days
Smear test	Up to 2 weeks
24-hour Blood Pressure monitor	7 days
Home Blood pressure	7 days

Please remember that the practice may receive your results within 3 working days however the doctor needs to review the results and may need to take some action. The doctor may not be in practice on the day your results are received please allow at least 5 working days before you contact the practice for the results.

Why have I been asked to have a repeat test?

If a doctor asks you to have a repeat test it is usually because:

- The result was borderline or equivocal – so the doctor wants another sample to monitor the situation or to re-check
- The result is abnormal – and the doctor is unable to interpret the result without further tests so has asked you to come in for more testing.

Please do not worry if the doctor has asked you for a repeat test, if there is a serious problem then the Doctor will speak to or request to see you directly.

How to access your Results

- Online Medical Records access
- Request your results via the practice website
- Contact the practice by phone

If you don't receive your results within the timeframe expected you should contact the practice to ensure that nothing is missed.

What do the results of my test mean?

The descriptions below give an explanation and details behind the phrases used.

Normal. Take no action - This means that the doctor has looked at the result and deemed it to be within the normal range for the test and so no further investigation or treatment is needed.

Satisfactory. Take no action - This means that the doctor has looked at the results and deemed it to be very close to the normal range for the test and the result is not concerning. Some patients have consistently abnormal results that are 'normal' to them.

Borderline. Take no action - This means that the doctor has looked at the result and deemed it to be just outside of the normal range and the result is not concerning.

Abnormal, but expected. Take no action - This means that the doctor has looked at the result and no further investigation or treatment is needed. This may be for the following reasons:

The result is in keeping with your known medical condition(s)

The result has already been discussed with you

You are already on the correct treatment

Specimen lost/unusable. Repeat test - Unfortunately very occasionally samples are lost. Sometimes there is a delay in samples reaching the laboratory which can affect the quality of the specimen making it unusable. Occasionally an incorrect test is requested in which case a repeat may not be needed. On the other occasions an incorrect bottle or label may have been used.

Positive. – often used with tests for infections this means that the condition being tested for has been detected.

Negative. Take no action – Also often used with tests for infections. Self-explanatory. No further treatment or investigation(s) is needed.

Other messages you might see when checking your test results:

If symptoms persist speak to the doctor – this usually means the result is abnormal but expected and you are already on the correct treatment, however if your symptoms are not improving you should discuss with your doctor.

Sheringham Medical Practice

Patient to make a telephone appointment to discuss – The doctor would like to speak to you to explain the result(s) by telephone.

Repeat test – small fluctuations in test results are common and slightly abnormal results usually return to normal without the need for treatment. The GP would like to check your result has returned to normal or remained stable. There should be an indication of how long you should wait before rechecking your blood test.

Patient to pick up script – your test result(s) indicate that you need some medication and there is a prescription ready for you to collect. There should be an additional comment explaining what the treatment is for, however if you are unsure please book a telephone consultation with the doctor or nurse.

Due an annual review – the Practice will contact you to arrange a time for you to come in and discuss your blood results during your annual reviews.