

Phlebotomy and ECGs for NHS and private patients

The phlebotomy (blood test) and ECG (heart tracing) services that we offer at the practice are funded by the health service for primary care requests only – i.e. those requested by our doctors after they've seen a patient and decided a blood test or ECG is indicated.

This funding allows us to employ the right number of nurses or health care assistants to perform these tests in a timely manner.

We do not have the capacity to carry out ECGs or blood tests on behalf of private or NHS specialists. It should be noted that neither phlebotomy nor ECGs are core general practice services, they are separately commissioned. We are only able to provide them according to the local funding arrangements.

Locally NHS specialists, in secondary care, are funded to carry out their own tests including ECGs and blood tests.

Private specialists should not be asking NHS primary care to carry out unfunded tests on their behalf.

If you are still unsure whether we can do your blood test/ECG or not please refer to the table below:

Reason for request	Can we do it?
Requested by primary care physician	Yes
Needed for monitoring of medication for which we are prescribing and monitoring. We may have an active shared care agreement.	Yes
Needed after hospital discharge, back to primary care.	Yes
At the request of an NHS specialist for a nationally commissioned service (e.g. Gender Clinics).	Yes – this is a grey area. We are not funded to do these tests, but it is accepted that for nationally commissioned services that patients can access monitoring locally.
At the request of an NHS specialist where the specialist clinic is out of area (e.g. when a university student is registered with us but seeing a specialist close to their out-of-term time address).	Yes on a temporary basis only – again we are not funded to do this, but pragmatically we will do tests in this situation.
Needed after an outpatient appointment (NHS or private).	No. The local NHS secondary care services are funded to do these tests. Private patients need to have the tests done by the private specialist.
Needed for monitoring of medication which a NHS or private specialist is prescribing.	No. The local NHS secondary care services are funded to do these tests. Private patients need to have the tests done privately.