

Blood test	Comments	Tube Colour		
AFP	Tumour marker. For maternal screening the sample should be sent with the special Maternal Screening Form which details the information required for risk calculation.	SERUM GEL		
APTT	The APTT ratio is used to monitor unfractionated Heparin therapy	CITRATE		
Alcohol / Ethanol	Ethanol (mg/dl) = ethanol (mmol/L) x 4.6	SERUM GEL	OXALATE	
Amylase		SERUM GEL	Li HEPARIN	
AST	Not part of LFT profile	SERUM GEL	Li HEPARIN	
Bile Acid	Blood should be taken after fasting for at least 3 hours.	SERUM GEL		
B12 (Vitamin)		SERUM GEL	Li HEPARIN	
CA-125	Useful in follow up of ovarian cancers; of limited value in diagnosis. Please see NICE guidelines on ovarian cancer.	SERUM GEL		
Calcium	Approximate adjustment for low serum albumin: Ca (adjusted) = Ca (measured) + 0.015 x (42-albumin)	SERUM GEL	Li HEPARIN	
Carbamazepine	Collect just before next dose. Time to steady state is 2 - 6 days.	SERUM GEL	Li HEPARIN	
CEA	Useful in follow up of colorectal and some other cancers. Limited value in diagnosis. Please see NICE guidelines on colorectal cancer.	SERUM GEL		
Caeruloplasmin		SERUM GEL	Li HEPARIN	
Cholesterol	Interpret result with reference to current clinical guidelines for prevention of vascular disease. Triglycerides can be done on same sample.	SERUM GEL	Li HEPARIN	
CK	Non-specific marker of skeletal and cardiac muscle damage.	SERUM GEL	Li HEPARIN	
Coagulation screen	It is sometimes referred to as the Clotting Screen.	CITRATE		
Copper		PLAIN WHITE	Li HEPARIN (no gel)	TRACE METAL (Li Heparin)
Cortisol	Results affected if patient stressed. Prednisone and prednisolone interfere with the test.	SERUM GEL		
CRP		SERUM GEL	Li HEPARIN	
Ciclosporin	Collect before next dose. Therapeutic range varies with time post-transplant.	K EDTA		
Digoxin	Collect >6h after last dose. If treated with Digibind, digoxin cannot be measured for 72 h.	SERUM GEL		
Drugs of Abuse	Amp, Benz, Coc, EDDP, Opi, NB. Cannabis should be ordered separately.	SPOT URINE		
Electrophoresis	Includes total protein and albumin.	SERUM GEL		
ESR		CITRATE		
Ferritin	First line test for Fe deficiency anaemia	SERUM GEL	Li HEPARIN	
Folate		SERUM GEL		
Free T4	Part of TFT profile	SERUM GEL	Li HEPARIN	
Full blood count		K EDTA		
FSH	State LMP and clinical details.	SERUM GEL	Li HEPARIN	
GH		SERUM GEL	Li HEPARIN	

LH/FSH	State LMP where appropriate.	SERUM GEL	
GTT	Oral glucose tolerance test - state times on sample.	OXALATE	
Glucose		OXALATE	
HbA1c		K EDTA	
Haemoglobinopathy Screen	Antenatal Haemoglobinopathy Screening programme use the FOQ Request form. All other requests write as free text on the Blood Science Request form.	K EDTA	
Heparin Therapy	APTT	CITRATE	
Immunoglobulins	IgA, IgG, IgM	SERUM GEL	
Iron/transferrin	Iron, Transferrin useful if ferritin is raised. NOT 1st line test for Fe deficiency anaemia.	SERUM GEL	
Lactate		OXALATE	
LDH		SERUM GEL	Li HEPARIN
Lead (Pb)		K EDTA	
Liver Function	Bilirubin, ALT, ALP, G-GT, [Alb]	SERUM GEL	
LH	Lutenising Hormone. State LMP and clinical details.	SERUM GEL	Li HEPARIN
Lipids	Cholesterol, trig, HDL, C:HDL, LDL	SERUM GEL	
Lithium	Ideally 12 hrs after last dose	SERUM GEL	
Magnesium	Usually in addition to calcium/albumin	SERUM GEL	Li HEPARIN
Oestradiol	State LMP and clinical details	SERUM GEL	Li HEPARIN
Paracetamol	Do not sample before 4 h following ingestion.	SERUM GEL	Li HEPARIN
Phenobarbital	Timing not critical	SERUM GEL	
Phenytoin	Timing not critical	SERUM GEL	Li HEPARIN
Phosphate	Usually in addition to Calcium/Albumin	SERUM GEL	Li HEPARIN
Progesterone	State LMP and clinical details.	SERUM GEL	Li HEPARIN
Prolactin	State LMP and clinical details.	SERUM GEL	Li HEPARIN
PSA	Tumour marker	SERUM GEL	
PTH	See laboratory handbook	K EDTA	
Salicylate		SERUM GEL	Li HEPARIN
Tacrolimus		K EDTA	
Testosterone		SERUM GEL	Li HEPARIN
TFT	Thyroid function: TSH, free T4. State if on T4	SERUM GEL	Li HEPARIN
Thrombophilia		CITRATE X 3	K EDTA
Total Protein		SERUM GEL	Li HEPARIN
Total T3	Total T3 – not part of TFTs	SERUM GEL	Li HEPARIN
TRAB(S)	Thyroid receptor antibodies. Of no value in subclinical hypothyroidism.	SERUM GEL	
Triglyceride	Part of lipid profile	SERUM GEL	Li HEPARIN
Troponin I		SERUM GEL	Li HEPARIN
TSH	Part of TFTs or TSH monitoring	SERUM GEL	Li HEPARIN
Urate	Uric Acid / Gout	SERUM GEL	Li HEPARIN
U & Es	Na, K, Urea, Creatinine, eGFR, total CO2 can be requested separately	SERUM GEL	Li HEPARIN
Valproate		SERUM GEL	Li HEPARIN

<b>Warfarin</b>	INR	<b>CITRATE</b>		
<b>Zinc (Zn)</b>	Trace metal tube	<b>PLAIN WHITE</b>	<b>LI HEPARIN (no gel)</b>	<b>TRACE METAL (Li Heparin)</b>
<b>Malaria</b>	Discuss with laboratory. Ideally delivery within 2 hours to laboratory.	<b>K EDTA</b>		
<b>CMV serology</b>		<b>SERUM GEL</b>		
<b>EBV serology</b>	Includes testing for Infectious Mononucleosis.	<b>SERUM GEL</b>		
<b>Toxoplasma</b>	Toxoplasma serology	<b>SERUM GEL</b>		
<b>Hep A IgG / IgM</b>		<b>SERUM GEL</b>		
<b>Hep B markers</b>	Includes tests for acute/chronic HBV infections/antibody response to vaccination	<b>SERUM GEL</b>		
<b>Hep C screening +/- RNA</b>	Usually within 7 days. But may increase to 14 days if confirmation by second assay / RNA testing required.	<b>SERUM GEL</b>		
<b>HCV RNA +/- Genotyping</b>	At least 5 ml of EDTA blood required. Please send 2 tubes if small tubes are used.	<b>K EDTA</b>		
<b>Helicobacter IgG</b>		<b>SERUM GEL</b>		
<b>HIV Antigen/Antibody</b>	Usually within 7 days. But may increase to 14 days if confirmation by immunoblot is required.	<b>SERUM GEL</b>		
<b>Rubella IgG / IgM</b>		<b>SERUM GEL</b>		
<b>VZV IgG</b>	Please call the duty virologist for urgent testing (after exposure to chickenpox/shingles in high risk individuals).	<b>SERUM GEL</b>		
<b>Syphilis Serology</b>		<b>SERUM GEL</b>		
<b>Borrelia / Lyme</b>	Please see Lyme Borreliosis guide on Ref Help	<b>SERUM GEL</b>		
<b>Other serology</b>	Requires clinical info including date of onset/exposure	<b>SERUM GEL</b>		

**Biochem/Haem forms – tests shown in red. Virology forms – tests shown in blue.**

WGH telephone	Biochemistry and Haematology 0131 537 1910 / 31911	Pathology 0131 537 1962	
RIE telephone	Biochemistry, Haematology, Microbiology 0131 242 6806	Pathology 0131 242 7147/7148	
St John's tel -	Biochemistry 01506 52 3160/1	Haematology 01506 52 3353	Microbiology 01506 52 3075/7