

The Misbourne Practice

Patient Information Leaflet

Blood Tests and Results – what do they mean?

Laboratory tests are tools helpful in evaluating the health status of an individual. It is important to realise that laboratory results may be outside of the so-called 'normal range' for many reasons. These variations may be due to such things as race, dietary preference, age, sex, menstrual cycle, degree of physical activity, problems with collection and/or handling of the specimen, non-prescription (over the counter) drugs (aspirin, cold medications, vitamins etc), prescription drugs, alcohol intake and a number of non-illness related factors.

Generally, diseases or problems are not diagnosed or treated with a blood test alone. It can, however, help you to learn more about your body and detect potential problems in the early stages when treatment or changes in personal habits can be most effective.

What the doctor's comments mean

Normal – 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 for this patient – no action

This is similar to the above. It means that the doctor has looked at the result and, although it may be within or outside the normal range, has deemed the result is not concerning in the circumstances. Some patients have consistently out of range results that are 'normal' for them.

Collect script

Self-explanatory

Infection confirmed – on correct antibiotic/antifungal

Self-explanatory

Continue of current medication

Self-explanatory

Repeat test – Practice will contact patient

Self-explanatory

Repeat test – specimen unlabelled

The Lab have identified a problem with the labelling of the specimen, therefore, test should be repeated

FOB patient DNA for screening

Patient was sent a bowel cancer screening kit but did not return it

Make appointment within 48 hours/one week/2 weeks/ 2 to 4 weeks

Self-explanatory

Make routine appointment with Nurse

Self-explanatory

Surgery to contact patient non-urgent

Self-explanatory

GP will phone patient

Self-explanatory