

# Having a blood test at the Royal Free Hospital

A blood test can tell your doctor if there is anything wrong with you.

This leaflet explains what will happen when you have a blood test in the blood test department at the Royal Free Hospital.



Blood tests can be taken by a nurse, doctor, or a phlebotomist.

A phlebotomist is a health worker who takes blood tests – they wear a grey uniform.



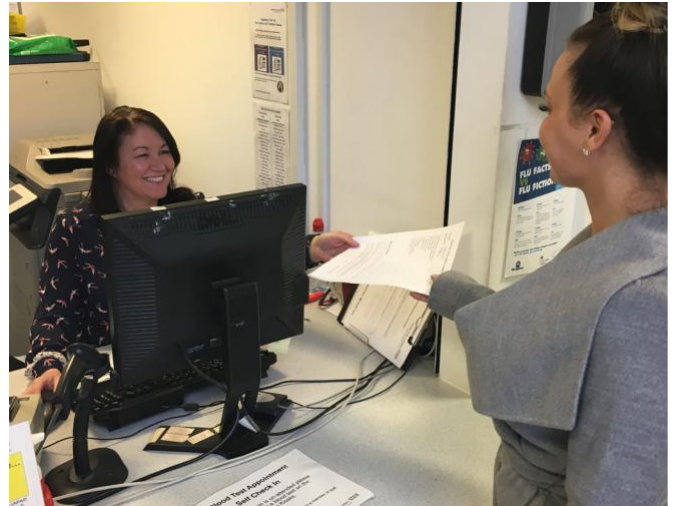
Walk straight down the long corridor at the main entrance to the Royal Free Hospital.

Keep walking past the lifts and then turn left following the sign pointing towards the “Blood Room”.

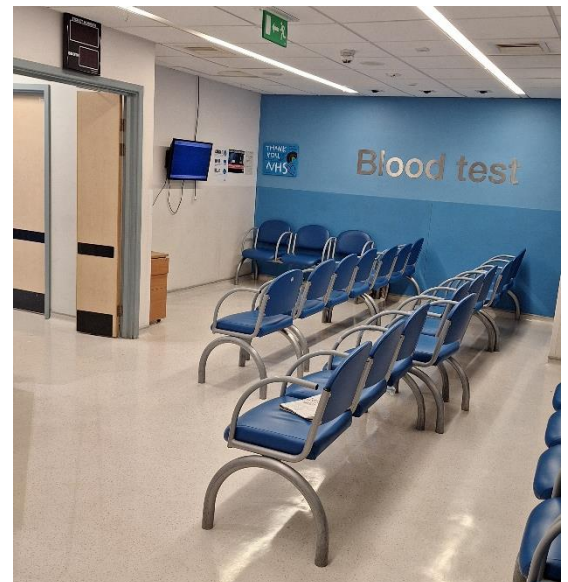
Walk down the corridor and follow the signs leading to “Blood Tests”, which will be on the right.



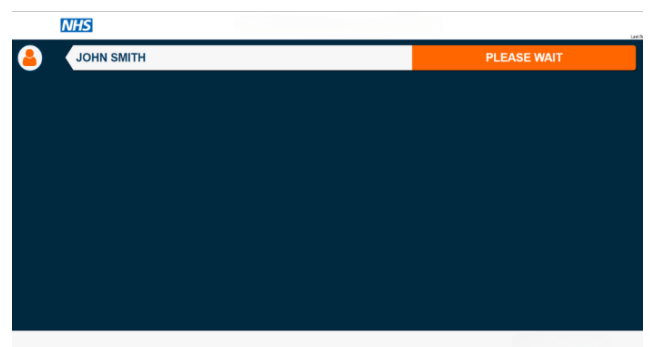
Tell the receptionist that you have arrived for your blood test.



Take a seat in the waiting room.

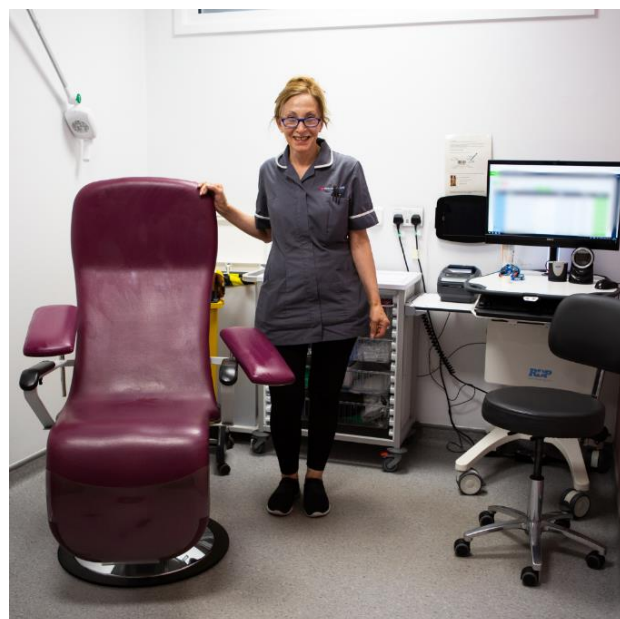


Your name will come up on the TV screen when it's your turn. A number will appear next to your name. When your number is called please go to the bay with the same number.

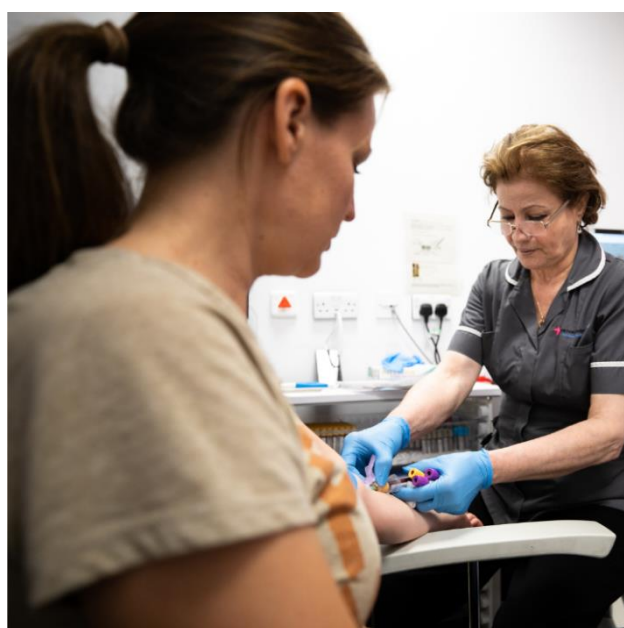


A blood test room looks a bit like this. Please sit down on the chair.

Blood will usually be taken from your arm.

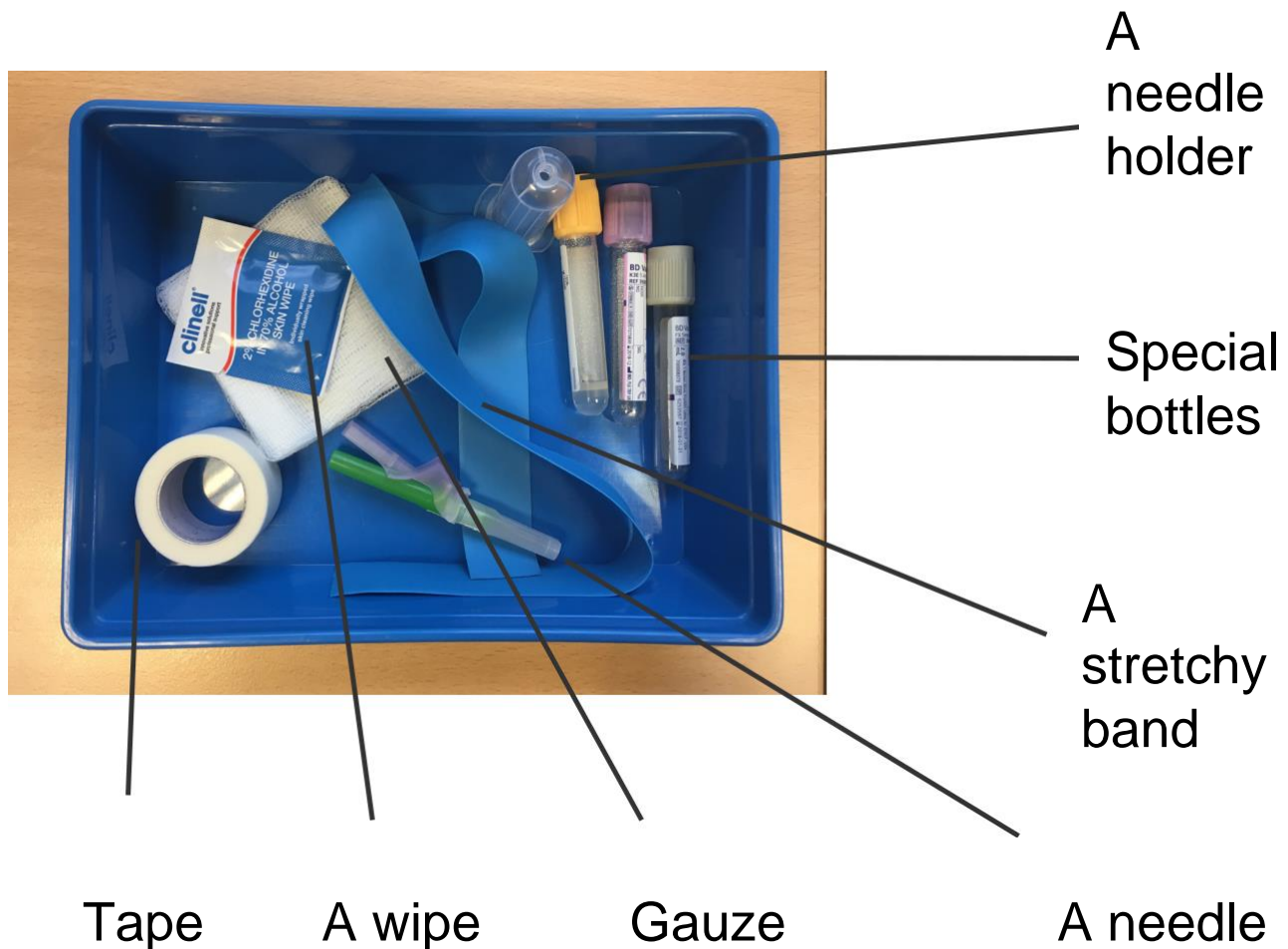


Please take off your jacket and roll up your sleeve.





This is what we may use to take your blood:



The phlebotomist will ask you for your name and date of birth.



They will ask:

**“Can we take your  
blood please?”**

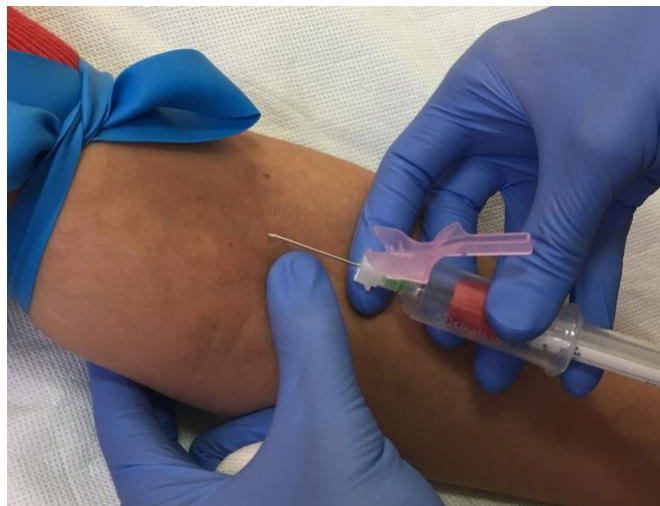
They will tie a band around  
your arm – this may pinch a  
little bit.



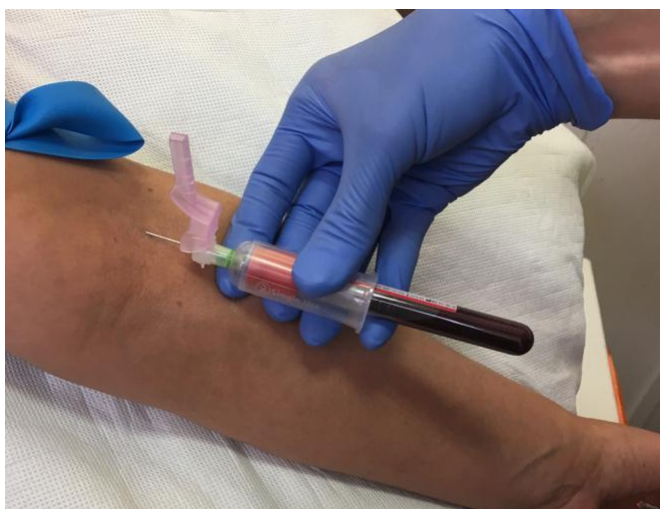
They will touch your arm  
to look for a vein and  
clean your skin.



You may feel a scratch as the needle goes into your arm.



Blood will be collected in a special tube.

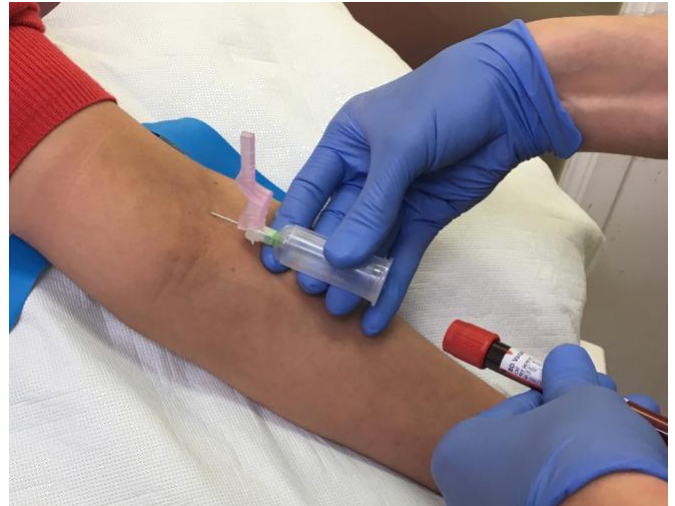


They may need to take more than one tube.

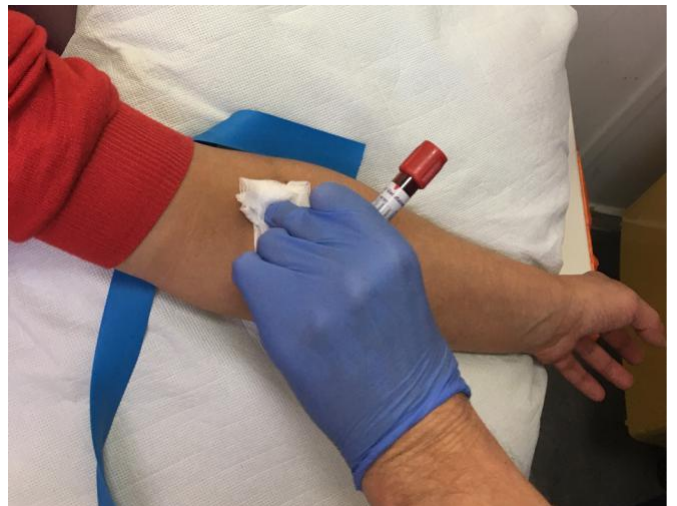




The phlebotomist will untie the band and take the needle out.



They will press hard on your arm with a piece of gauze to stop any bleeding.



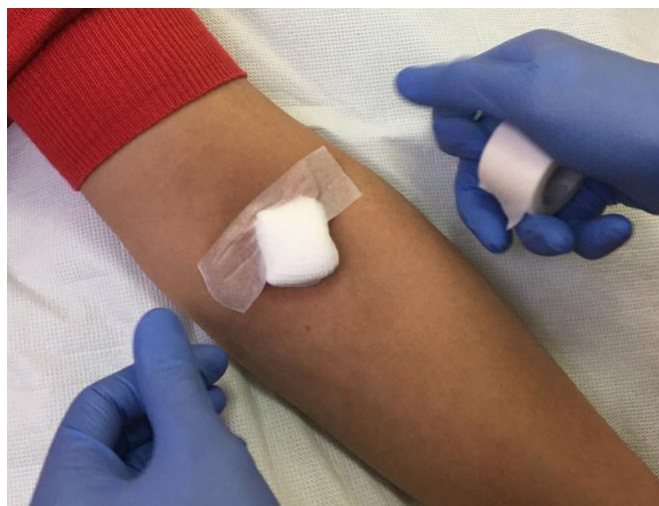
They will ask you to hold the gauze on your arm for a short while.





They will tape a piece of gauze on your arm.

You can take this off later.



Your blood test is now finished.



The results will be sent to your doctor who will explain them to you.



# Do you need more help?

Contact our acute liaison nurses:

## Royal Free Hospital



Phone: 020 7794 0500 ext 39517



Email: [rf-tr.acuteliaisonnurses@nhs.net](mailto:rf-tr.acuteliaisonnurses@nhs.net)