Taking blood from young children (Paediatric Clinic)
The blood will be taken by an experienced member of staff using special children's size bottles and needles.
Children are given priority for blood tests so that they do not become anxious. A local anaesthetic cream will be applied to the arm about half an hour before the blood test by the clinic nurse.

After the blood test
Once all the blood has been taken, the tourniquet is released, the needle removed and a dry swab is placed over the area. The phlebotomist will ask you to press down on the swab for a few minutes, to prevent a bruise forming. Whilst you are doing this the phlebotomist will label your samples.

A plaster or dressing will be placed over the area. This should be removed about two hours later. Occasionally, slight bruising may occur. If you suffer from extreme discomfort after your blood test speak to your GP.

What happens to my blood sample?
The phlebotomist sends your blood straight to the laboratory, where the tests are performed by Biomedical Scientists. Your results are then sent to your doctor. Your doctor should inform you when the results will be ready. Some results may be with your doctor within a day, but others may take several days.

Contact details for more information
Department of Haematology and Blood Transfusion
Telephone: 0845155 5000 ext 70168
Direct line: 020 3447 8961
Address: 60 Whitfield St
London W1T 4EU
Website: www.uclh.nhs.uk
UCLH cannot accept responsibility for information provided by external organisations.

If you need a large print, audio or translated copy of this document, please contact our Quality Team on 020 3447 9887. We will try our best to meet your needs.
Having a blood test
Blood tests are performed for a wide variety of reasons and can provide your healthcare professional with a wide range of information. They can be used as a screening test before an operation, help diagnose your illness or monitor your treatment. Your doctor will explain the reason for your particular test(s) and ask for your consent to have blood taken.

Where to go
South Camden Centre for Health
(at the side of Stephenson House)
146 – 162 Drummond Street,
London NW1 2PL
Opening Times: 08:00 to 16:15
If it is more convenient the Trust also offers community based Phlebotomy at the following sites:

Islington Central,
28 Laycock Street, London N1 1SW
Opening Times: 08:00 to 17:00

River Place Medical Practice
Essex Road, London N1 2DE
Opening Times: 08:00 to 12:00

James Wigg Practice
2 Bartholomew Road, London NW5 2BX
Opening Times: 08:00 to 17:00

Royal London Hospital for Integrated Medicine,
60 Great Ormond Street, London WC1N 3HR

Finsbury Health Centre
Pine Street, London EC1R OLP.
Opening Times: Monday, Wednesday,
Friday 8:30-12:30
Tuesday and Thursday
08:30 to 17:30
Closed weekends and Bank Holidays

Expect longer waiting times in the mornings as this is the busiest time.

Who will take my blood?
The person taking your blood is called a phlebotomist and has been fully trained and is competent to take blood from patients.

What you should tell the phlebotomist
• if you are taking any medication
• if you have fainted during a previous blood test (you may be asked to lie down whilst your blood is taken)
• if you are not comfortable at any point
• if you have had blood taken previously, and have difficult veins

What to expect
The phlebotomist will call you into the room and ensure that you are seated comfortably. They will ask you your name and date of birth. Depending upon the test requested the phlebotomist may need to know when you last took your medication, or if you have fasted before the blood test.

The blood will be taken from your lower arm, usually the inner side of your elbow. The phlebotomist will ask you which arm you would prefer to have the blood taken from. They need to access your upper and lower arm and will ask you to remove your jumper or jacket, or to roll up your sleeve, if this is in the way. You will be asked to lay your arm on the arm rest of the chair. To help the phlebotomist take the blood, they will place an adjustable strap (called a tourniquet) around your upper arm. They will then wipe your arm with an antiseptic swab and take the blood sample(s).

All phlebotomists wear medical gloves or clean their hands with an alcohol disinfectant gel when taking blood. The needle and other equipment used to take your blood are sterile and have not been used for any other patient.

If your doctor has requested several tests you may need to have more than one bottle of blood taken because not all blood tests can be carried out on one sample. The phlebotomist can take several samples using one needle.

Difficult Veins
If the veins on the inner side of your elbow are not prominent, the phlebotomist can take blood from other areas of your lower arm, wrist or hand.