

Staff

The anticoagulation clinic is overseen by a haematology consultant.

Anticoagulation clinical nurse specialist:

Sandra Cope, RGN

Anticoagulation nurse:

Suzette Chisman RGN

Anticoagulation administrators:

Debra Hughes

Bedford Hospital NHS Trust
South Wing
Kempston Road
Bedford, MK42 9DJ

Useful numbers:

General enquiries: **01234 795736**

Anticoagulant queries: **01234 355122 ext. 5938**

Transport: **01234 355122 ext. 2668**

NHS Direct: **08454647**

www.bedfordhospital.nhs.uk

Anticoagulation Clinic

Postal System Advice



Information for patients whose
anticoagulation is managed
through the postal system.

The postal system is a convenient service for patients and means that you won't have to spend time waiting for your INR result to be processed or waiting to see the anticoagulation nurse.

How to use the service

When your blood test is due you should come in to have a sample taken at either the South wing site, or at Gilbert Hitchcock House at the North wing site. Alternatively, you may be able to have your blood test taken at your local GP practice however this may require booking in advance.

Once you have had your blood test you should leave your yellow anticoagulant book with the blood sample. You should then return home and continue taking the dose of warfarin you were taking before you came in for your blood test.

Your yellow book will be posted back to you with your new dose and the date of your next appointment.

If we need to speak to you urgently about your INR blood test and a change in warfarin dose then we will inform you by telephone so please make sure that you can be contacted by telephone on the day you have the blood test. If you are not going to be on your usual telephone number then please write an alternative contact number in your yellow book.

If you do not have access to a telephone, you must wait and see the nurse after each blood test

If you are unsure of what is in your book or you need some advice please telephone the anticoagulation clinic on 01234 795736.

Blood tests

You may come and have your blood test taken anytime from:-

8.15 to 3pm: Monday to Thursday at South wing
8.30 to 2pm: Monday to Thursday at North wing

Except in special circumstances, appointments are not available on Fridays.

If you want to book your next blood test for a particular day—for example if you have another out patient appointment—or if any dates will not be convenient, please write a note in your yellow book. However, if your INR is unstable we may not be able to accommodate all requests.



Seeing a anticoagulation nurse

If you need to see the anticoagulation nurse for a consultation when you are having your INR blood test done then you will have to come to South wing **before 10.30am on Monday, Tuesday or Thursday** and advise the phlebotomist that is taking your blood test that you are waiting to see the nurse. This will ensure that your blood test is processed urgently. However, please be aware that the processing takes approximately 45 minutes.

Results

Please allow two working days for your book to be returned **before** telephoning the clinic for your results.

Please **do not telephone the clinic on the day of your test** for your result and dosing instructions unless you have been specifically requested to do so. There is a danger that your result will **not** have been verified and you could be given incorrect information.

Changes in medication

If you have any changes in medication (new medication started, existing medication stopped, or the dose of existing medication changed) then please telephone the anticoagulation clinic or leave note, including your name and address, in the yellow book.

If you attach post-its to your yellow book, please ensure that they have your name and date on them to avoid confusion.