Blood taking

Sussex Kidney Unit

Information for renal outpatients
Introduction

The doctor or nurse who sees you in clinic may decide that you need a blood test. You will be given a blood request form which you should give to one of the renal nurses (health care assistants). If the department is busy, you may be asked to wait for a short time in a seated area before someone is available to take your blood.

Patients with kidney problems often require frequent blood tests and therefore your veins need to be treated with care. This is firstly because they are delicate, but also because your veins may need to be used in the future to form a fistula if you were to need dialysis (see our leaflet ‘Formation of Arteriovenous Fistula’).

Consent

Before we take blood, we will discuss your blood test and the procedure with you, and we will need your verbal agreement that we can do this. If you do not want us to take your blood, we will respect your wishes and where possible we will ask the doctor or nurse who requested the blood to be taken to come and discuss it with you.

Are there risks involved?

Sometimes you can get bruising or pain in the area where your blood has been taken from. This usually goes within a few days.

What should I do if the bruising / pain does not go away after a few days?

Please call Renal Outpatients Department on 01273 664559.
Where is it done?

Blood samples will be taken from:

- The back of your hand rather than the arm, if possible. If this is not possible then the nurse will find another suitable vein. If you have seen the surgeons with regards to forming a **fistula** please let the nurse know which arm they plan to use.

How is it done?

A tourniquet (a band) will be placed around your arm. This makes the veins swell so they can be seen better. See picture below.

The person taking the blood will let you know that they are going to place a small needle into one of your veins and that you may feel a sharp scratch.
If you do not understand this leaflet, we can arrange for an interpreter.

إذا كنت لا تستطيع فهم محتويات هذه النشرة فبإمكاننا عمل الترجمات لتوفير مترجم.

এই প্রচারপুস্তকটি যদি আপনি বুঝতে না পারেন, তবে আপনার জন্য আমরা একজন অনুবাদকের ব্যবস্থা করে দিতে পারি।

如你不明白本单张的内容，我们可安排口譯員服務。

如你不明白本传单的内容，我们可安排口译员服务。

اگر مندرجات این جزوه را غیر فهمیده، ما میتوانیم

Jeśli masz trudności w zrozumieniu tej ulotki, możemy zorganizować tłumacza.

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Disclaimer
The information in this leaflet is for guidance purposes only and is in no way intended to replace professional clinical advice by a qualified practitioner.

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