

Deansgrange Medical Centre

Consultant Blood Test Policy

AIM: the aim of this policy is to outline the procedure to follow when a patient requests blood tests to be taken on behalf of any Hospital Consultants.

PATIENT HAS A BLOOD FORM FROM A CONSULTANT

If the patient has the blood form with the consultant's name/ stamp on it: they can get the bloods done in one of the following places:

- In the private hospital (for hospital's own fee)
- In a local hospital (for free)- SMH, SVH, SCH
- In DMC (for phlebotomy fee of €45)

In the cases above the DMC doctor's name is NOT on the form and the results go directly from the lab to the requesting consultant. The DMC doctor does not see the results, in this case, DMC simply acts as a phlebotomy service.

PATIENT DOES NOT HAVE A BLOOD FORM FROM CONSULTANT

If a patient requests bloods to be taken on behalf of a consultant and does not have a completed blood form, then the DMC doctor prepares the form. This may be done in consultation with the patient or it may be completed based on correspondence received by the consultant if the information is available. In some cases, contact may have to be made with the consultant to find out what blood tests are requested. The patient themselves may have a list of the requested bloods.

Once the blood form is prepared, The patient can have the blood taken in either place below:

- The private hospital which they attend (for private hospital fee)
- DMC: €65 annual/one off tests, €50 for 3-6 monthly monitoring tests such as methotrexate, or regular PSA's)

Admin should only schedule the phlebotomy appointment when the blood form has been completed by the doctor.

Blood is taken by our nurses who make a note in the chart listing the tests taken & the name of the consultant & hospital* to which the results are to be sent.

*please note that consultants work in multiple centres so the hospital/ clinic name must be known.

When the results are back, the named doctor reviews the results, makes preliminary interpretation and acts accordingly.

The doctor then forwards the results to the appropriate consultant/hospital.

Copies of the results can also be given/ emailed by admin to the patient on their request. This must be cleared by doctor first.

€65 charge is irrespective of medical card status.

As per GMS (medical card) contract – bloods tests are not covered by the medical card, nor is the processing of blood tests on behalf of a private hospital.

**As per Medical Council Guidelines: the doctor who orders the test is responsible for the results.

