

## Services

The Pathology department offers the full range of services generally required by the clinician. The department's test list consists of about 600 different tests that are carried out at its MDH laboratories and a large number of specialized tests that are subcontracted to our overseas suppliers.

Most tests take a day or two to be carried out but some require longer time to process. Testing of an urgent nature is carried out 24x7.

### Requests for testing

Tests can only be requested by physicians. Patients who require testing should see their doctor who will then order the appropriate tests after examining the patient. Patients can opt to go either through their private general practitioner (for routine tests only) or through a Health Centre or Hospital Outpatients' Clinic to get the necessary testing carried out. The Pathology Department does not accept self-referrals by the patients themselves.



## Results

The Pathology Department operates strictly within the parameters set by the Data Protection Act. Results are sent directly to the referring doctor either via the hospital IT systems or by mailing the results to the doctor's home or clinic.

Patients are not provided with Pathology results but if such results are required, they can be requested via the hospital Customer Care Department.



### For further information contact:

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## Medical Laboratory Science

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# What is Medical Laboratory Science?

Medical laboratory science is an allied health care profession which plays an important role in modern medical care. Without the invaluable work of medical laboratory scientists the diagnosis of disease, the evaluation of the effectiveness of treatment and research into the causes and cures of disease would not be possible.



Medical laboratory scientists must be accurate and efficient because patients' lives depend on their skills. Although some important tests are routine, many are challenging and demanding. The modern techniques used in laboratories require the operation of increasingly

sophisticated equipment and automated methods. After basic training, most medical laboratory scientists specialise in one of the medical laboratory sciences.

## Specialisation

**Clinical chemistry:** Blood and other biological materials are analysed to detect concentrations of various chemicals in the body so as to diagnose metabolic diseases, toxicological studies and the monitoring of therapy. Instrumentation, computerization and automation are used in many procedures.

### Haematology:

The physiology and morphology of blood are studied using electronic equipment and microscopes to identify normal and abnormal blood cells. Clotting defects are also investigated.



**Transfusion Science:** Individual blood grouping and testing is carried out for compatibility of donors' blood with that of patients. Blood components and plasma fractions are prepared for administering to patients.

**Histopathology:** Patients' tissue removed during surgery or post-mortems are prepared in various ways using dyes and other chemicals to show changes in the cell structure of the tissues. These changes are characterized to identify abnormalities like cancer, heart disease or kidney disease.

**Medical Microbiology:** Disease-causing micro-organisms - bacteria, viruses, fungi, and parasites are isolated by culturing in suitable media. Serum is analysed for antibodies to infective agents and for microbial antigens. Sensitivity of bacteria to various antibiotics is tested using automated techniques.

