

3rd November 2020

PRESS RELEASE

Online booking for blood tests

Patients needing to make an appointment for blood tests at Russells Hall Hospital or Guest and Corbett outpatient centres can now do so online.

The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust has had to stop its walk-in service to maintain social distancing in waiting rooms and also reduce the amount of time patients have to wait.

All blood tests requested by GPs need to be booked in advance. This has resulted in our phone lines being very busy. The Trust has acted quickly to bring in a new online system.

Chief executive Diane Wake said: "We wanted to make sure patients were not having to wait to get through on the phone as we know how frustrating and inconvenient that can be. Our new online booking system can be accessed at any time to suit the patient, and they will be able to view available appointments easily.

"It is really important people continue to get the medical help and support they need and we hope patients find this a convenient way to get their blood tests which will help with diagnosis and timely treatment."

Blood tests requested by a GP are carried out at Guest and Corbett Outpatient Centres Monday to Friday 8am-5pm and at Russells Hall Hospital on Saturdays from 8am until 1pm. There will also be additional availability when possible and this will be shown on the online portal. Patients will need to have a GP form, and to book online will need to have a mobile number to receive a text confirmation. The online booking links can be found on the Trust's website, <u>www.dgft.nhs.uk</u>

Patients who are unable to book online can call 01384 244330 or 01384 365155 between 8am-8pm Monday to Friday and 9am-3pm Saturday.

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Issued by the communications team at The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust.