



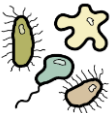
**NHS**

Great Ormond Street  
Hospital for Children  
NHS Foundation Trust

## Testing for bugs (Easy Read)



We have good and bad bugs in the body. If they are out of balance, we can get ill.



There are lots of different bugs. The main ones are bacteria, viruses and fungi.



They each do different things and affect you in lots of ways.



Scientists can do lots of tests in our laboratories to find out what bug you have.



They need to have a small sample of fluid from your body to test.



They need different samples depending on the tests they are doing.



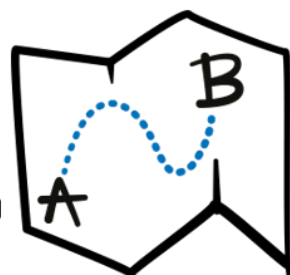
Samples of blood are taken from a vein, usually in your hand or arm.



Samples of wee and poo are collected when you use the toilet.



Samples of mucus are collected when you spit into a container.





Samples of cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) are taken with a lumbar puncture.



This is usually done when you are asleep under anaesthetic or sedation.



Samples of bone marrow are taken from your hip or leg with a needle.



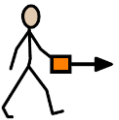
This is usually done while you are asleep under anaesthetic.



Samples from your skin, mouth or nose are collected by wiping a swab (large cotton bud) over the surface.



When the sample has been collected, a label is put on it with your name and date of birth on it.



It is then taken to the laboratories, either by our porters or using an air tube.



When it gets to the laboratories, scientists record that it has arrived and plan what tests the doctors have ordered.



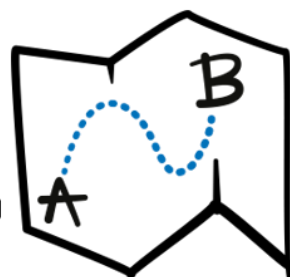
Some samples are put on a glass plate of jelly then put somewhere warm to grow bugs.



Others are put on a glass slide so the scientists can look at them closely using a microscope.



Some samples are put in a machine that does the tests. Different machines do different things.

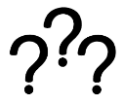




When the scientist has the test results, they are put on your medical record on the computer.



Your doctor can look at the results to decide what to do next.



Please ask us if you have any questions.

