

PA: Angelique D'Boure
Tel: 0300 421 1415
Email: angeliquedboure@nhs.net

Sir Geoffrey Clifton-Brown MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

By email

24th September 2020

Dear Sir Geoffrey

There has been a review of provision of phlebotomy services underway in Gloucestershire for a number of years. This review was commissioned in response to an acknowledged inequity in how the phlebotomy service has been commissioned and provided across Gloucestershire. There were also challenges in the provision of services, particularly at the Acute hospital sites, which required urgent change in order to ensure that patients had timely service.

The changes being made to community phlebotomy services were intended to ensure that every patient, regardless of where they live, could access a primary care initiated blood test at their local GP Practice rather than needing to travel to hospital. We have made additional payments to all GP practices, including all Cirencester practices, in order to provide this consistent level of service in primary care. Discussion was had with the Cirencester locality and a clear decision was taken by local GPs to provide the primary care initiated blood tests at local practices. This will give patients timely access to booked appointments.

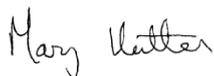
I can also confirm that patients requiring blood tests on the day of their outpatient appointment at Cirencester can continue to have their blood taken on the day of their outpatient appointment.

For patients who require a blood test in advance of their outpatient appointment, GHNHSFT also continue to provide a phlebotomy service for patients receiving hospital treatment at Cirencester Hospital. This service is currently open (pre-bookable online) on Monday mornings. We are currently working with GHC on plans to take over this service and extend the coverage of this to a five days a week service.

It is also clear that the Covid pandemic has impacted on the response time for blood tests results due to the impact of new safety measures. As we have discussed we have a clear focus on restoration of services and are working to ensure any impact on delay in return of blood tests is reduced.

I am happy to provide any further information on this issue.

Yours sincerely



Mary Hutton
ICS Lead/Accountable Officer
NHS Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Group