

PATHOLOGY

The Pathology Department of Bon Secours Hospital is committed to providing a high quality, efficient clinical laboratory service with a walk-in facility for outpatients, with no appointment necessary and same day reporting for the majority of blood tests.

The Pathology Department performs a wide range of clinical laboratory investigations on biological samples utilising state of the art diagnostic analysers and techniques. These investigations are intended to prevent, identify and monitor diseases and their treatment. The investigations are performed by experienced scientific staff, supported by Consultant Pathologists in each of the disciplines.

All Departments participate in appropriate internationally accredited external quality assurance schemes.

Phlebotomy

The Phlebotomy service is available to both inpatients and outpatients. Outpatients should attend in the morning as there are more Phlebotomists available and patients will be attended to promptly. Outpatients require a referral letter from their doctor but it is not necessary to make an appointment, (unless the patient is undergoing "dynamic function tests" when it is advised to make an appointment to ensure no undue delays occur). It is our policy not to inform patients directly of their Pathology results without the consent of the referring doctor.

Anticoagulant Therapy Monitoring

Anticoagulant monitoring in Bon Secours Hospital means no lengthy waits in Warfarin clinics. Automated equipment is used to monitor patients on Warfarin therapy.

The Haematology Department will contact the GP directly if a patient's INR is outside the therapeutic range or differs significantly from the previous result.

Histopathology

The Histopathology Department has a turnaround time of 2 days for routine histopathology and cytopathology specimens. There are two Consultant Histopathologists who provide a full-time on-site service.

The Consultant Histopathologists will contact the GP with any positive results. Cervical smears are analysed on behalf of the laboratory by the Department of Cytology, Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland.

RCSI is one of the largest screening departments in the country, ensuring a high quality service in cervical cytology.

Microbiology

The Microbiology Department provides a comprehensive range of tests for the diagnosis of bacterial, fungal and parasitic diseases. There is a Consultant Microbiologist who advises on antimicrobial therapy and the management and control of infection.

The fight against antimicrobial resistance can be helped by prescribing antibiotics to which the organisms are sensitive.

Routine Blood Tests

The Pathology Department has the technology to provide same day reporting for routine haematology and biochemistry tests. The scope of investigations varies from organ function and endocrine glands to therapeutic drug monitoring, tumour markers and full blood counts.