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**Testing for HIV, hepatitis B and hepatitis C in
London hospital emergency departments**

**Suggested Social media posts**

***Facebook/Twitter asset:*** <https://fasttrackcities.london/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Blood_Testing_in_Emergency-Departments_1200x628.png>

***Instagram asset:*** <https://fasttrackcities.london/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Blood_Testing_in_Emergency-Departments_1080x1080.png>

Having a blood tested at a London A&E? If you're 16+ we test for HIV, & soon Hep-B & Hep-C, unless you opt out. NHS treatment is lifesaving & free. Results are confidential. Watch how treatment changes lives: [www.facebook.com/aidsmap/videos/511149303442502](http://www.facebook.com/aidsmap/videos/511149303442502)

Getting a blood test at a London A&E? If you're 16+ we also test for HIV, & soon Hep-B & Hep-C unless you opt out. Finding out early means lifesaving medication & help to live a long healthy life. Results are confidential [www.fasttrackcities.london/testinginae](http://www.fasttrackcities.london/testinginae)

If you get a blood test in a London A&E & you’re 16+ it now tests for HIV, & soon Hep-B & Hep-C, unless you opt out. It’s good to be diagnosed early & get treated free to live long & well. Results are confidential [www.fasttrackcities.london/testinginae](http://www.fasttrackcities.london/testinginae)

Blood testing in London A&Es for people 16+ now automatically incl. testing for HIV, & soon Hep-B & Hep-C, unless you opt out. You'll get medication & advice to recover & live a normal life. Your results are confidential [www.fasttrackcities.london/testinginae](http://www.fasttrackcities.london/testinginae)

HIV testing is now in London A&E blood tests for people 16+, & soon Hep-B & Hep-C, unless you opt out. Knowing means getting lifesaving treatment to help your body repair so you can live well. Results are confidential [www.fasttrackcities.london/testinginae](http://www.fasttrackcities.london/testinginae)

**Template website news story**

XXXXX Hospital emergency department is now providing routine blood testing and ensuring life-saving treatment for HIV, hepatitis B and hepatitis C.

Almost XXXXX people attending the Emergency Department (A&E) at XXNHS Hospital are expected to benefit from free HIV, hepatitis B and hepatitis C screening each year, with free local treatment, support and care if they test positive.

From April 2022, all London emergency department blood tests will automatically test people for HIV when doing blood tests, unless they opt out, with hepatitis B and hepatitis C screening to be added in the coming months.

**Dr XXXXXX of XXXXX NHS Hospital Trust said:**

**(suggested quote for key messages - or remove quote marks)**

“HIV, hepatitis B and hepatitis C are all easy to test and treat. The sooner you are diagnosed and can begin your care, the quicker your body can recover. By routinely including these blood tests, we can ensure that if you need it, you can get life-saving treatment, care and support to live a normal, healthy life – all free from the NHS. Your test results, like all NHS tests, are confidential.”

HIV, hepatitis B and hepatitis C are blood-borne viruses that are all now easily treated once diagnosed. Treatment is life-saving and free from the NHS. With medication you can expect to live long and well and it helps stop passing it on too. Hepatitis C can be completely cured.

**Dr XXXXXX, XXXXX Hospital said:**

**(suggested quote for key messages - or remove quote marks)**

“It is best to diagnose HIV, hepatitis B and hepatitis C early, before they begin to harm your health. Without the right care their effects can become life threatening and symptoms can take years to show. Therapies are safe and effective and allow your body to repair the damage. People on effective medication live a normal life.”

Last year around XXXX people had a blood test in XXXX NHS Hospital Emergency Department.

**Notes for editors**

* London is world-leading in clinical outcomes for people living with HIV, it aims to be the first city in the world to end new cases of HIV.
* Testing is crucial to get to zero new HIV infections, zero preventable deaths and zero stigma by 2030.
* Recent @UKHSA data showed that almost half (42%) of people diagnosed with HIV in England in 2020 were diagnosed late.
* People can live with HIV for a long time without any symptoms, and testing is the only way to know your HIV status.
* If you have HIV, finding out means you can start treatment, stay healthy and avoid passing the virus on to anyone else.
* 1 in 8 people living with HIV have disclosed their status only in a healthcare setting
* 1 in 2 people living with HIV reported mental health problems, twice the rate of the general public.
* 1 in 4 people living with HIV worry about being gossiped about
* 1 in 10 people living with HIV avoid family or social gatherings
* Despite 40 years of living with HIV many people still do not know that people on effective HIV treatment cannot pass it on
* 80% of Londoners do not know that people on HIV treatment cannot pass it on
* From April 2022, all London emergency department blood tests will automatically include HIV, as part of the [HIV National Action plan](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/towards-zero-the-hiv-action-plan-for-england-2022-to-2025#:~:text=The%20Action%20Plan%20will:,PrEP%20for%20key%20groups%20continues), with hepatitis B and hepatitis C screening to be added in the coming months.
* The Action Plan announced in December 2021 will:
	+ prevent new infections by expanding and improving well-proven HIV combination prevention activities, and investing £3.5 million in a National HIV Prevention Programme over 2021-2024 and ensuring that expansion of access to PrEP for key groups continues
	+ scale up HIV testing in high-risk populations where uptake is low to ensure new infections are identified rapidly - including expanding opt-out testing in A&E departments in areas with the highest prevalence of HIV and will be backed by £20 million over the next three years
	+ ensure people, once diagnosed, rapidly receive treatment as this will stop them transmitting the infection further, increase their chances of living a long, healthy life by reducing the chance of complications and support everyone living with HIV to stay in treatment
* The tests are routine, the same as the usual blood test. No further action is needed by patients.
* If they do not want to be tested, people can tell a member of staff to opt-out of screening.