

Test	Full Blood Count
Common Abbreviations	FBC, CBC
Profile	FBC
Clinical indication	Used as a broad screening test to check for a range of disorders. A FBC is a panel of tests examining different parts of blood, including white blood cells, red blood cells and platelet counts, haemoglobin, mean cell volume, mean cell haemoglobin, haematocrit and nucleated red blood cell count.
Specimen type	Whole Blood
Sample type	Adult: Purple top EDTA Paediatric: Purple top EDTA
Minimum volume	Adult:1mL Paediatric: 0.3mL
Special precautions	None
Stability	24 hours
Turn-around time	Urgent: 1 hour Routine: 6 hours
Referral Laboratory	HRI: 24/7 CHH: Monday to Friday 08:30 to 17:00
Reference interval	See User Information Document HA/UI/HU-15 – Haematology Reference Ranges. A blood film will be added onto a FBC by the laboratory when deemed appropriate.
Limitations	Test cannot be performed if the sample is found to be clotted.

List of additional tests that can be added to original sample with time limits for requesting:

- Blood Film (D) – where appropriate clinical information is given – within 24 hours
- Direct Antiglobulin Test (DAT) – within 48 hours
- Reticulocytes (R) – within 24 hours
- Haemoglobinopathy investigations (ABH) – within 48 hours
- Malarial Parasites (MP) – within 24 hours
- Glandular Fever screen (GF) – within 12 hours
- Haemoglobin A1c (HBA1) – within 48 hours