

Patient Information

Respiratory Physiology

Capillary Blood Gas (CBG) Sampling

- If the sample collected is from your earlobe, it is called a capillary blood gas test.
- A blood gas test is used to measure how much oxygen and carbon dioxide is in your blood.
- By measuring the levels of the two gases in your blood the consultant can tell how efficiently your lungs are working.

During the blood gas test

- A physiologist will apply a special spray to your earlobe that helps increase blood flow. This makes your ear go red and feel hot.
- The blood vessels in your ear lobe will then contain about the same amount of oxygen as blood taken from your artery.
- After a few minutes, the physiologist can take a sample by scratching your ear lobe and catching the blood droplet that forms.
- The sample is then taken and analysed via a machine in the department.
- After checking the sample, a second sample may be taken.

Preparing for the test

- **Please do not wear any earrings to the test.**
- There are no other specific preparations that need to be made.

After the test

- The results are uploaded to your hospital account.
- The consultant will review and discuss the test results with you.

Contact details

If you have any questions or worries about the tests, please contact:

Royal Stoke Hospital 01782 675452
County Hospital 01785 88754