

BASHH contingency plan for GU screening during blood bottle shortage

In light of the global shortage of blood tube products, and the NHSE recommendation¹ to reduce non-clinically urgent testing, we recommend prioritising tests based on local service level availability.

Please liaise with your local laboratories to ensure sample collection is optimised appropriately. There may be local variations in availability of bottles for certain tests.

For monitoring advice on HIV positive patients please follow guidance issued by BHIVA.²

High priority	<u>BBV Screen</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Patients with symptoms suggestive of HIV, hepatitis or syphilis (includes all patients with genital ulceration/rash)• Contacts of HIV, syphilis and hepatitis• Serological monitoring of pregnancy women with syphilis <u>Creatinine/renal profile and/or liver profile</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• PEP initiation and follow up if required• PrEP initiation• PrEP follow up only for those with previously abnormal results, known kidney disease and those at high risk of renal toxicity (>40 yoa, comorbidities, concomitant nephrotoxic medication)
Medium Priority	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• BBV screening in high-risk individuals at high risk of STI (e.g MSM, IDU, sex workers) *• RPR after syphilis treatment*
Routine (defer until 17 September 2021 or availability of blood bottles for routine tests)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Routine screening*• Post vaccination serology

*Please refer to self-sampling (online tests) where available. These use different bottles that are not affected by the current shortage. Please ensure online test provider is aware of the potential increase in demand.

Ref

1. <https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/B0888-becton-dickinson-blood-specimen-collection-portfolio-supply-disruption-v2.pdf>
2. <https://www.bhiva.org/interim-BHIVA-guidance-on-routine-monitoring-during-national-shortage-of-blood-bottles>