

PinPoint Test: Evaluation (Phase I) Patient Information Sheet

Introduction

You are being invited to have a blood test called the PinPoint Test.

General Practitioners (GPs) in England currently refer over 2.17 million patients with symptoms each year to the urgent cancer referral pathway. However, more than 9 in every 10 people (90%) referred this way will not be diagnosed with cancer. The PinPoint Test is being launched as a rapid response by the NHS to help prioritise cancer referrals and make the diagnosis process more streamlined. The PinPoint Test will be carried out as well as the standard testing for suspected cancer.

The NHS is evaluating The PinPoint Test to determine that it is ready and effective for use in hospitals. This service evaluation will help the NHS to roll out this test, which it is hoped will improve the cancer pathway and benefit patients in the future. As this is an evaluation of the test, you and your GP will not receive the PinPoint Test result. However, an NHS expert panel, including clinicians, will look at anonymised findings of the test to ensure it is working as expected.

What is the PinPoint Test?

It is a test which has been designed to predict the chance of a patient having cancer. The test involves you agreeing to have a blood test arranged by your doctor's surgery and also agreeing that we can share a small amount of personal information about you which will be used as part of the test. The test has been developed by a company called PinPoint Data Science Ltd. who have worked with doctors to create the test algorithm (put simply, this means the rules of how the test works). The test uses specially designed computer programmes, termed artificial intelligence and machine learning, to measure specific features in your blood and combines these with a small amount of information about you: age and sex. The results of the test can indicate a patient's chance of having cancer with very high accuracy.

Why is the PinPoint Test being introduced now?

This is a new test which has recently been regulated for use in the NHS. It is hoped the test will help relieve the increasing pressure on hospitals. It is being introduced and evaluated in GP Practices and Hospitals in the West Yorkshire and Harrogate region. In the future, the test results will be used by hospital doctors to help prioritise patients on the urgent cancer referral pathway. This means patients with the highest chance of cancer will have their hospital appointments prioritised.

What will I be asked to do?

You will be asked to provide a blood sample. The amount of blood collected from you will not exceed 8.5 mL (less than 2 teaspoons) and will take about 5 minutes. Generally you will be asked to attend your GP surgery / local phlebotomy service for the blood test in the morning.

Why have I been asked to have a PinPoint Test?

Based on your consultation, your GP has referred you to see a hospital doctor (specialist) at an urgent suspected cancer clinic. This is to investigate your symptoms further. GPs will offer the test for patients referred in this way.

What are the possible benefits to me?

This service evaluation will help the NHS to roll out this test, which it is hoped will improve the cancer pathway and benefit patients in the future. However, if you decide to take part there will be no benefit to you directly. Your participation is completely voluntary and it is up to you whether you participate or not. Your referral to hospital and subsequent care will not change in any way, whether you agree to take part in the evaluation of the PinPoint Test or not.

Will any personal information about me be collected and used?

Yes. The blood test request that your GP will send to the hospital laboratory will include your name, NHS number, date of birth, sex, ethnicity and pregnancy status. This personal information will be held on secure NHS hospital computer systems.

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Will any personal data be collected (continued)?

The blood test is carried out in the laboratory at the Mid Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust. This is the regional testing hub for the new PinPoint Test. Before the PinPoint Test is run by the laboratory, your name and any personal identifiers are removed by the hospital and replaced with a test sample ID number.

How is the test evaluated?

The evaluation will be undertaken by an NHS expert panel, including clinicians, in collaboration with PinPoint Data Science Ltd. To support the evaluation, your hospital will match the PinPoint Test result with the outcome of your referral and whether you were diagnosed with cancer. This information will be fully anonymised. At no point will the panel undertaking the evaluation have access to any identifiable information about you. Your information will not be used for any purpose other than for the evaluation of the test.

How do I give my consent to take part in the evaluation?

Your GP will explain the test to you and how your personal information will be used (as described above). If you are happy to take part your GP will specifically ask you if you consent to your personal information being used by your GP Practice, the Mid Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust (regional testing hub) and your local hospital (if this is not Mid Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust) for the purposes of the test evaluation. Your GP will make a written record of your verbal consent (including the date and time you gave it) in your notes held at your GP Practice.

If you wish to withdraw your consent at any point, please contact your GP Practice in writing. If you withdraw your consent, the GP Practice will arrange for Mid Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust and your local hospital (if this is not Mid Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust) to destroy the blood sample, the personal information used for the PinPoint Test and the test finding. Withdrawal will not affect your care in any way.

The PinPoint Test Privacy Notice includes information on all the data protection rights you have in relation to your personal information processed as part of the PinPoint Test evaluation. Please take time to read the notice. The notice can be found on our GP Practice website as well as the West Yorkshire and Harrogate Cancer Alliance website.

For further information and the privacy/fair processing notice please visit:

West Yorkshire and Harrogate Cancer Alliance:

<https://canceralliance.wyhppartnership.co.uk/our-work/innovations-programme/pinpoint-test>

PinPoint Data Science: www.pinpointdatascience.com