



Warfarin (INR) pathology tests

Warfarin is used to help prevent the clotting (coagulation) of your blood. This information aims to give you a clear understanding of the procedures for your regular warfarin (INR) pathology tests.

Your referral

Your doctor has given you a referral covered by the regulation called 'Rule 3' Exemption. This referral can be used for 6 months. We keep a record of the date on your referral and your doctor will be notified when a new referral is required. This should be completed by your current doctor. Please let staff know if you change your doctor.

Pathology collection centres

Melbourne Pathology has many collection centres located throughout the metropolitan area and regional Victoria (locations are listed on the Melbourne Pathology website www.mps.com.au). Although you can select the centre that is most convenient for you, we suggest you attend the same collection centre each time if possible. This allows our staff to be aware of any special requirements you may have, and to have access to your records each time you attend.



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What occurs at each visit?

As a regular patient to a collection centre, Melbourne Pathology staff may recognise you. However the staff member is required to ask you to spell your name, state your date of birth, current address and phone number every time they collect a blood sample. Each time you attend, you will also be asked your current dose of warfarin, and if there have been any changes to your other medication and health. This is not meant to offend you. We ask you to understand how important it is that you are protected against incorrect identification and dosage. We gather enough details to dose you safely.

If you attend for other blood tests and your INR is due, please let the staff know so it can be done at the same time.

Results

The results for each INR blood test will determine your next dose of warfarin and the date of your next blood test. If your doctor has requested that Melbourne Pathology control your warfarin therapy, we will provide your result by phone, letter or SMS if you enrol for this service.

New patients

If you have just commenced warfarin therapy, or have recently been discharged from hospital and you have not received a telephone call by **6pm** on the evening of your **first blood test**, please call the Melbourne Pathology Results Department on 8347 7010. Please state that you are a **new patient** or just out of hospital and ask to be transferred to the Warfarin Care Department if your result is not yet available.