**Interferon gamma release assay (IGRA) in OHS**

The interferon gamma release assay (IGRA) is used to help diagnose latent TB

**What is Latent TB?**

Latent TB is where you've been infected with the TB bacteria but have no symptoms. People with latent TB who are not ill and do not have any symptoms, can become ill as a result of reactivation to active TB years or decades later. It is likely that latent TB reactivation causes most of the active cases in the UK.

**Who requires an IGRA test via OHS?**

Individuals who have received a BCG and were born or spend considerable time in a country where TB is very common are more likely to have latent TB.

**What is an IGRA test?**

It is obtained via a blood test.

**Results**

If the result is negative, you will be advised by OHS and no further action is required.

If the result is positive you will be advised by OHS and offered a referral to the TB clinic.

Results usually takes approximately 7 days.

On occasion the result may be indeterminate. You will be advised by OHS and a repeat test is recommended.

**Treatment for latent TB generally involves**:

If you have latent TB and are aged 65 or under, treatment (antibiotics) is usually recommended. However, the antibiotics used to treat TB can cause liver damage in older adults. If liver damage is a concern and you're aged between 35 and 65, your TB team will discuss with you the advantages and disadvantages of taking treatment for latent TB.

It is important that you are registered with a GP, if you do not register with a GP this may delay your treatment.