What happens to the samples?

The urine will be tested by the laboratory:

- If the bug/germ is present in large numbers in the urine it will be possible to see them under the microscope. This means that the diagnosis can be made very quickly – in a day or two.

- If no TB bug/germ is seen in the urine, it does not mean that you do not have TB of the kidney/bladder. It may be the case that the numbers of bugs/germs are too small. The urine sample is then sent off for a further test – the result of this is available in about six weeks. In a proportion of cases even this test does not show TB bugs/germs but the Consultant may feel that your condition is more likely to be TB and may treat you for this.

For further information and advice about TB please contact our Health Protection Nurses on 642615 or 642657.

The information in this document can be provided in large print or on audio tape on request.
Why do I need a urine test?

Your doctor suspects that you have tuberculosis (TB) in one of your kidneys or your bladder. The bacteria (bug/germ) that causes TB is called Mycobacterium tuberculosis. The laboratory needs to do special tests to identify this bug/germ. You cannot pass TB to any other person if it is in your kidney/bladder. The best way to diagnose TB is by testing your urine.

Where do I get the sample bottles from?

Clean large containers are available from:

- Pathology Reception, Noble's Hospital

How do I collect my urine samples for the TB test?

1. Use three clean large containers.
2. Collect the whole of your early morning urine on three consecutive days.
3. Wash and dry your hands thoroughly.
4. It is better that you collect your sample the first time you pass urine after rising from bed. Your urine will be more concentrated first thing in the morning and there will be a greater number of bacteria present for testing and there will be a greater chance of correct diagnosis.
5. Use one bottle for each day and arrange delivery to the laboratory as soon as possible on the same day of collection of each sample.
6. Ensure that the lid is screwed on tightly, the container has been dried and that your yellow request form accompanies the sample.
7. Wash and dry your hands thoroughly.

How do I get my sample to the laboratory safely?

Please ensure that the container is labelled correctly.

Please put the following details on the container:

- your name
- date of birth
- date and time the sample was taken.

The lid should be screwed on tightly.

The correctly-labelled container with the specimen must be placed in an individual green plastic transportation bag.

A yellow request form (which has been completed by your doctor or nurse) must accompany each sample container.