

Griffith Avenue Practice: Urine Sample Policy

In keeping with best practice, it is the policy of Griffith Avenue Practice that urine samples from patients cannot be accepted without an accompanying appointment with a doctor.

Why do I need an appointment with a doctor if I want to drop in a urine sample?

Simply put, an appointment with a doctor is necessary to determine the significance of any urine sample. Typically the reason someone is looking to drop in a urine sample is because they believe they may have a urine infection. However a urine sample on its own will not answer this question.

If a urine sample shows signs of bacteria, this may mean that the patient has a standard urinary infection. However it may also be an incidental finding that does not require any treatment (known as asymptomatic bacteriuria) or it may represent a serious infection requiring hospitalisation (known as Urosepsis or Pyelonephritis).

The only way to determine which of these 3 very different scenarios a patient is dealing with, is a clinical assessment with their GP.

I believe I have a urinary infection (UTI). What should I do?

If you believe you have a urinary infection you should arrange an appointment with a GP. We have urgent care appointments available each day, Monday to Friday, for cases such as these. You can request the appointment on 01-8373611 as normal, or you can book the appointment directly on our website griffithavenuepractice.com.

If you are unable to attend one of these appointments you should contact the Out of Hours service (North Doc) on 1850 224477. They are available every evening from 6pm and all day at the weekends.

If you are too unwell to wait for your doctor's appointment you should attend the local Emergency Department.

Reference Documents:

HSE Position Document on Urine Dipsticks

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/list/2/gp/antibiotic-prescribing/conditions-and-treatments/urinary/position%20statements%20dipstick%20urinalysis%20for%20utis%20in%20adults/position-statements-dipstick-urinalysis-for-utis.pdf>