

Minor diagnostic tests explained



What are minor diagnostic tests?

These are quick tests which your consultant might suggest you need to help them understand what's causing your symptoms. You may have them on the same day as your consultation, or a few days later as an outpatient, so you won't need to stay in hospital.

Here are some common examples:

- **X-rays** – takes pictures of the hard tissues and structures inside of your body, like bones and joints
- **Ultrasounds** – creates real-time pictures or videos of soft tissue inside your body, such as muscles, organs, ligaments and tendons
- **Electrocardiograms (ECG)** – checks your heartbeat and rhythm
- **Echocardiograms** – a type of ultrasound scan that checks the structure, function, and blood flow of your heart
- **Blood tests** – checks your blood to help monitor your health or find out what's causing your symptoms. This doesn't include genetic testing so if your consultant recommends this, please contact us
- **Urine or stool samples** – checks for various health conditions
- **Glucose or cholesterol level checks** – measures the amount of sugar and cholesterol in your blood
- **Blood pressure or ECG monitors** – checks your heart rate and blood pressure for up to two weeks

Am I covered for minor diagnostic tests?

Yes, if you're having them to investigate acute symptoms. These are symptoms that are likely to respond quickly to treatment and get you back to how you were before they started.

The cost of these tests will come from your outpatient allowance, if you have one. We recommend you check the cost of them with your consultant, hospital or clinic to see if you have enough allowance available in your current policy or scheme year.

Which tests need a separate pre-authorisation?

Some scans and tests need a separate pre-authorisation so we can make sure:

- you go to a Bupa-recognised hospital or clinic
- you see a Bupa-recognised consultant if needed
- you're covered for the condition you're being tested for

If your consultant says you need one of the below tests, or another test that isn't listed, please call us on your dedicated Bupa helpline (you can find the number in your health cover documents) and we'll check if it's covered and explain your next steps.

Tests that need a separate pre-authorisation include:

- **MRI (magnetic resonance imaging) scan** - uses a large magnet to create clear detailed images of the inside of your body
- **CT (computerised tomography) scan** - uses X-rays and computer processing to create clear detailed images of the inside of your body
- **Nuclear medicine tests like PET (positron emission tomography) scans** - uses radiation to scan the inside of your body to check how your organs and tissues are working
- **genetic testing**
- **allergy tests**
- **hearing tests**
- **tests for ADHD or autism**
- **fertility tests**
- **miscarriage tests**
- **sleep tests**
- **any test that needs you to stay in hospital for the day or overnight**

How to get in touch with us

To check if a test is covered or if you need another pre-authorisation, please contact us through your My Bupa app, sign in online bupa.co.uk/mybupa/dashboard or call your dedicated Bupa helpline which you can find in your health cover documents, and we'll be happy to help.

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