

Minor diagnostic tests explained



What are minor diagnostic tests?

These are fairly quick tests used to help your consultant understand your symptoms. You usually have them as an outpatient, meaning you don't need to stay in hospital for the full day or overnight. During your initial appointment with a Bupa-recognised consultant, they might ask for some of these tests. Usually, you'll have them on the same day or a few days later.

Here are some common examples:

- **X-rays** – to look at dense objects such as the bones inside your body
- **ultrasounds** – to capture moving images of the soft issues inside your body
- **echocardiograms and electrocardiograms (ECG)** – to check the heart's rhythm and electrical activity
- **blood tests** – the examination of a sample of blood. Bupa does not routinely cover genetic testing. If genetic testing is required please contact us to discuss further.
- urine or faeces samples, and glucose or cholesterol level checks (except where a sample is being used for genetic testing)
- two week blood pressure/ECG monitors (up to a two week period)

Please note: Bupa does not cover fertility tests such as Anti-Mullerian Hormone. These are excluded as per the exclusion for birth control, conception and sexual changes.

Am I covered for minor diagnostic tests?

Yes, for investigating acute symptoms up to your benefit limits. Acute symptoms are those likely to quickly respond to treatment and get you back to the same state you were before experiencing symptoms.

The authorisation we gave you for your initial and follow-up consultations gives you the go ahead for many tests, but for some that are more complex, you'll need additional authorisation.

Which tests need additional authorisation?

For some tests, we need to make sure you're going to a Bupa-recognised facility, are under the care of Bupa recognised consultant if needed and that the condition is covered by your policy. So, if you need one of the below tests or something that is not outlined on this page, please call us using the number in your membership pack if we haven't discussed it already. We'll check if you're eligible and talk you through next steps.

Examples of tests that need extra pre-authorisation:

- **Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI)**
uses strong magnetic fields and radio waves to produce detailed images of the inside of the body
- **Computerised tomography (CT) scan** – uses X-rays and a computer to create detailed images of the inside of the body
- nuclear medicine tests, like Positron Emission Tomography (PET) scan to show how the tissues and organs inside your body are working
- genetic testing
- allergy tests
- hearing test
- tests for Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) or Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)
- fertility tests
- tests to investigate a miscarriage
- sleep tests
- plus, any tests that require you to be admitted to hospital for the day or overnight