

## Patient information

# Haematology tests

One or more of these tests may be ticked on your blood test request form. They are usually performed on the day that the sample arrives in the laboratory.

- **Full blood count (FBC):** The FBC is a routine investigation that gives information on a person's blood cells. This can be useful as a screening test in many different situations, eg the white blood cell (WBC) count can indicate a response to infection and the haemoglobin (Hb) can indicate the presence of anaemia.
- **Erythrocyte sedimentation rate (ESR):** The ESR is a non-specific blood test that may be raised in a variety of conditions but is not usually diagnostic on its own. It is used as a screening test for general health.
- **Clotting screen:** This is a group of tests designed to detect possible problems with a person's blood coagulation / clotting mechanism. These tests can indicate if a person has a tendency to bleed.
- **International Normalised Ratio (INR):** The INR is a test used to monitor a person's coagulation / clotting mechanism when on the anticoagulant drug Warfarin. Warfarin may be prescribed for a number of conditions including deep vein thrombosis (DVT) and atrial fibrillation (AF).
- **IM test (or PB):** The IM test is used to test for infectious mononucleosis, otherwise known as glandular fever. This is also sometimes known as a Paul Bunnell (PB) test.
- **Group and screen:** The group and screen (blood group and antibody screen) is performed by the Blood Transfusion department and is used to identify a person's blood group and antibody profile. This is useful for patients who may require a blood transfusion.