Why do I need to attend occupational health?
You need to attend occupational health to find out whether you have immunity to certain infectious diseases that you may encounter in the hospital environment and also to determine whether you have an infection that could be transmitted to patients and others. Some blood tests are compulsory and some are advisory. Please read the information below and then discuss any concerns with the occupational health nurse at your clinic.

TB immunity
As part of the pre-employment process you will have provided us with information on your TB status. If you have a BCG scar from a previous vaccination then this is accepted as a sign of immunity. If you do not have a scar you will need a mantoux test. The nurse will explain this fully at your appointment. If you refuse this test you may be restricted from working with certain patients.

Hepatitis B vaccination
Everyone working in a healthcare setting will be offered vaccinations against Hepatitis B. This is a course of 3 injections with a blood test first to check previous infection or immunity and a blood test at the end to check immunity. It is strongly recommended that you undertake this vaccination.

Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C and HIV
The Department of Health has produced guidelines that state that healthcare workers who carry out invasive procedures on patients must be able to demonstrate that they are not carriers of these blood borne viruses. These guidelines apply to staff who are involved in exposure prone procedures where by a gloved hand may come into contact with a sharp instrument or bone, or where the finger tips are not visible during a surgical procedure. If you feel that you may be have been at risk of acquiring hepatitis B, hepatitis C or HIV the occupation health team can offer confidential testing.

Measles, Mumps & Rubella (MMR)
You should have received 2 vaccinations as part of your childhood vaccination programme for MMR. You will be asked to produce evidence of these vaccinations. If you do not think you have had these vaccines then you will need to be vaccinated. In exceptional circumstances you will be offered a blood test to check your measles and rubella status.

Varicella (chickenpox)
If you have never had chickenpox you will be required to have this blood test. If you are found to be non-immune and working with patients you will be offered the vaccination.

Feedback
We are keen to hear your comments and ideas about improving the service. Please email the department with any comments; occupationalhealth.enquiries@uhb.nhs.uk
If you have any concerns or feedback please telephone or email the Deputy Head or Head of Service as below:

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Dr Alastair Robertson
Head of Occupational Health
Ext. 18363
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How to refer

To request any of the services offered by Occupational Health or find out more please call

0121 371 7170

or email

OccupationalHealth.Enquiries@uhb.nhs.uk