

Renal Services

Peritoneal function test (PFT)

CAPD – continuous ambulatory peritoneal dialysis

APD – automated peritoneal dialysis

PD – peritoneal dialysis

What is a PFT?

A peritoneal function test (PFT) tells us how well your dialysis is working. We collect a sample of your urine, PD fluid and blood and send them to the laboratories for analysis. We then put these results into a computer system to calculate how well the toxins and fluid are cleared from your body over 24 hours.

How often do I need to do a PFT?

Routinely, you'll be asked to do this test every 6 months. However, you'll also need to complete a PFT after any changes made in your dialysis. For example, if you change from CAPD (manual bags) to APD (machine), you'll need to repeat a PFT.

This allows us to make sure any changes made are working well and that you are dialysing adequately.

We like to make sure you have an up-to-date PFT for your clinic appointments with the PD team & consultant. In which case, you may need to do a PFT before 6 months.



How do I perform a PFT?

Your first PFT will be booked during your PD training and your appointment will be within 2-4 weeks of commencing dialysis. We'll provide you with the equipment to collect a 24 hour urine sample.

If you're on CAPD, we need you to bring all of your fluid from the previous day. If you're on APD, we need you to bring a small sample of fluid from the previous day.

You will attend the PD department. Here, we'll collect your samples and paperwork and you will have a blood test.

The samples are then sent to the laboratories for analysis. Results are usually available in 2-5 days.

What happens with my results?

Your results will be analysed and calculated by the PD nurses on a computer system. If there are no concerns with the results from your test, we'll record them in your notes and you'll continue with your current regime.

If you require any changes to your dialysis, we will contact you to discuss these. All changes are discussed with the PD consultant.

What if I cannot make my appointment?

If you are unable to attend your appointment, please call the PD department on 024 7696 8308 to inform them and rearrange.

If you have started to collect samples, you must dispose of these and ask the team for more equipment. If you have not started collecting samples, please arrange a new appointment.

Patient Information

The Trust has access to interpreting and translation services. If you need this information in another language or format, please contact the PD department on 024 7696 8308 and we will do our best to meet your needs.

The Trust operates a smoke-free policy.

Did we get it right?

We would like you to tell us what you think about our services. This helps us make further improvements and recognise members of staff who provide a good service.

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Document History

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