



Harvey's Lab Tours

What will happen on your visit?

This document provides an example of information that laboratories may wish to share with families ahead of a tour to help explain what might happen during the visit.

Knowing what to expect in advance can help some young patients feel more comfortable, calm and prepared for the experience.

The example in this document describes a tour through a haematology laboratory, but it can be adapted to reflect the departments, activities and facilities available at your site.

You are welcome to edit or personalise the content to suit the tours you offer and the needs of the young patients you are supporting.

Harvey's Lab Tour – What will happen on your visit?



Please come to xxx and ask for [name from xxx].
I will come and meet you there.

If you have any blood samples with you, keep them – we might be able to use them as part of the tour. Don't worry if you don't have any samples with you; there will be lots to see and do.



The full tour takes about 2 hours, but nothing is compulsory. We can go at your pace and do the parts you want to do.

1

Chat before the tour starts

We will go to the Blood Transfusion office area for a chat about what the lab does.

You will be given:

- a lab coat
- an ID badge



2

Specimen Reception and Biochemistry

Next, we'll visit Specimen Reception to meet [name], a Senior Biomedical Scientist.

They will show you:

- how your sample gets booked onto the computer system
- how samples travel through the lab
- some of the machines that do the tests (called analysers)
- how some tests work, including tests that use colour changes



3

Haematology

You'll see a machine that counts blood cells.

If you have had a sample taken before the tour, you can choose a machine, and we may be able to test your sample.

You could also:

- make a blood smear on a glass slide
- look at blood cells using a microscope
- make models of different red blood cells using modelling clay



4

Blood Transfusion

You'll see the analysers (machines that do the tests) and where we keep blood.

There is an emergency phone in the lab that can ring very loudly. If you don't like loud noises, we can avoid that area and do activities in a quieter room instead

You may choose to do:

- a blood grouping activity using drops on a tile to see if they react
- an "emotions volcano" experiment using vinegar and baking powder to make it erupt



5

End of the tour

You will be given a certificate, a goody bag, and a teddy bear to take home. Your lab coat is yours to keep too.

6

You will then be part of Harvey's team of biomedical scientists!

