SUGGESTED TEXT FOR LETTERS FROM GP TO PATIENTS WHO REGULARY ATTEND FOR BLOOD TESTS

Dear *[patient name}*

Despite the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, **it is very important that you continue to have your essential blood tests**. Not doing so could put you at significant risk. Special arrangements are being put in place to allow you to have your usual blood tests as safely as possible, minimising the risks of Covid-19 to both you and our staff.

If you usually attend your GP practice for your blood tests, please contact your GP, by telephone or online, for advice on what arrangements they are making for you. Do not attend the practice without contacting them first, as they will likely have changed their usual systems.

If you usually attend the drop-in clinics at Royal Shrewsbury Hospital (RSH), Princess Royal Hospital in Telford, Bridgnorth Community Hospital or Whitchurch Community Hospital **please note that these clinics are no longer operating**. Please do not come to the hospital expecting your blood test to be done. Alternative clinics are being put in place to reduce your risk of exposure to the virus. These clinics are **by appointment only**. You should call the following number **01743 492 510** for advice on the location of the clinics and to make an appointment to have your blood test. Please bring your blood test request form with you when you come. **You must not attend these clinics without an appointment, or if you are unwell, have possible Covid-19 symptoms or you are self-isolating**. In this case please contact your GP practice for advice on how to have your blood test done.

If you have been notified that you should be shielding due to a particularly high risk from Covid-19 complications, then you should contact the **Community Phlebotomy Service on 0333 358 4584** to make arrangements for your blood test.

Thank you for complying with these instructions as this will allow us to manage your care as safely as possible. If you have any questions, please contact your GP practice for advice.