

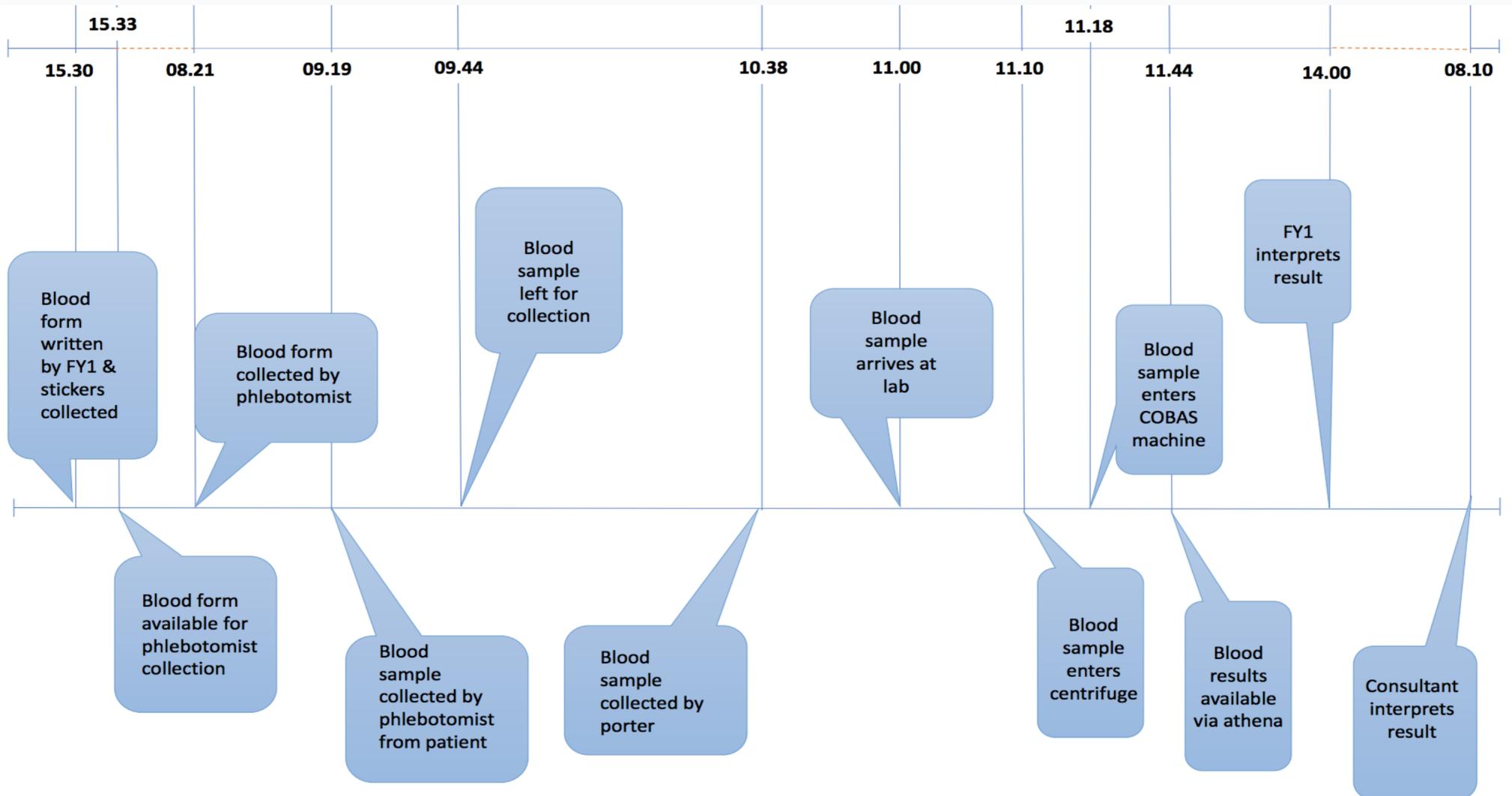
# A Simple Blood Test?



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## Background:

- In the surgical unit at University Hospital Crosshouse, the majority of in-patients have blood tests taken daily.
- The processing of a 'simple blood test' relies on the co-ordination of several independently working individuals.
- 1/3 fewer blood tests are requested at weekends when compared with week days.
- A horizontal audit was conducted that followed one blood test from its request to its interpretation by a consultant.



## Impact on patient

Multiple blood tests which add no value to patient care or experience

Treatment of blood test, not individual



Patient anxiety

Haematoma

Poor access

Infection at needle site

Overinterpretation of normal variation

## Impact on Hospital System

Significant time spent on this task by FY1s

Potential for error given involvement of many individuals

Consultant time reviewing and actioning blood results



Phlebotomy service under pressure

Laboratory processing large volume of routine blood tests delays emergency samples

## Cost Implication

30 bedded ward bled daily

Average request contains the following requests; FBC, U+Es, CRP, LFTs



1/3<sup>rd</sup> more blood tests requested than needed? Equates to saving of ~£65000 per ward per year

Average request costs ~£18 per patient, not including cost of labour

## Conclusion:

- Over investigation can cause harm to the patient, the hospital system and has an associated cost implication. 'Simple' blood tests are an example of over investigation which occurs daily across both our hospital sites.
- Minimal Interval blood testing guidelines are not adhered to locally. More work has to be done to understand why this is the case.
- Patients are being bled less frequently over the weekend, suggesting that there may not be a clinical need to bleed them daily during the week
- Could the patient experience be improved by taking blood tests less frequently?