

## Common Research Procedures: Blood Draws

### What is a blood draw?

A blood draw is a way to collect blood for lab testing. Sometimes a blood sample is taken by placing a needle into a vein in your arm, usually near your elbow. Other times, a small needle may be used to prick the fingertip and collect a few drops of blood. The amount of blood drawn depends on the types of tests being done.

### Questions to ask:

1. Are you drawing my blood specifically for the research study or is it also a part of my regular medical care?
2. How much blood will be drawn and how many needle sticks will I have?
3. Who will review my tests?
4. What happens if the tests reveal a medical issue?
5. Will I receive the test results?
6. How will my privacy be protected?
7. How long will you keep my samples?
8. Will my blood samples be used for future research?
9. Will the results of the blood tests become part of my medical record?
10. Who should I call if I have a question about this research?



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**More questions?  
Call:**

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*This brochure contains general information for educational purposes and is not intended to provide medical advice. Talk with your doctor or research team before acting on any information contained herein for advice specific to your situation.*

A close-up photograph of a hand holding a clear plastic test tube. The test tube contains a red liquid, likely blood. The background is blurred, showing a person's face.

# Blood Draw

# For Research





Participating in research is your choice.  
Be informed. Ask questions. Get answers.

## What's different about a blood draw used for research?

If you have blood drawn as part of your regular medical care, your doctor is usually trying to check your health, diagnose a problem, or find out if you are at risk for certain diseases. When blood is drawn as part of a research study, the sample is collected to help answer a scientific question. It is not intended to provide you medical care or detect health problems. Blood draws are part of many types of research studies.

Unlike a standard blood draw where you and your doctor would discuss the test results, the research team might not share the results of the research tests with you.

It is possible that no one will review your blood sample to look for problems with your health. Your blood sample may become part of a larger group of samples that are studied together and not looked at individually.

## Participating in research is a choice

Protections are in place to help assure the safety of research volunteers (also called "research subjects") and ensure volunteers are treated with respect. The research team will go over an Informed Consent Form with you. They will explain the study's goals and possible risks and benefits. Ask for help if you don't understand something. You should

never feel rushed or pressured. Being part of a research study is completely voluntary – it's your choice. You can change your mind, at any time, for any reason.

## How should I prepare for a blood draw?

Talk with the research staff so that you understand how to prepare for having your blood drawn. The research team will go over this information with you. Make sure you understand what to expect..

## What are the risks from a blood draw?

Blood draws are quite safe. There are no known major risks to having your blood drawn. Specific risks will be described in detail in the Informed Consent Form. Make sure you understand those risks as they related to the blood draw as well as to the overall research.

