

TSIN for Pretransfusion Blood Testing

A special wristband has been given to you as part of your blood work. It is very important that you don't take the band off. Here is some information about the band.

- Why do I need to wear this band?** Inside the band is a label with a unique number on it. This number is called a Transfusion Service Identification Number (TSIN). It is a link between your blood sample and any units of blood that you may get. Your health care providers will check the number on your band and make sure it is the same as the number on the blood label before you get any blood to make it is the right blood for you.
- How long must I leave the band on?** You must keep your band on until after your blood transfusion, or when you leave the hospital after your surgery.
The band can be worn up to one month. If your surgery is delayed past one month, you will need a new blood sample taken.
If you get a blood transfusion or become pregnant during the time you are wearing the band, please tell your health care provider. You may need a new blood sample taken.
- What happens if I take the band off?** If you are not wearing this band when you come in for your blood transfusion or your surgery, the blood testing will need to be redone. This may cause a delay in your transfusion or your surgery.

If you need to take the band off because of swelling or an allergic reaction, please notify your health care provider. You may need to have your blood test redone and get a new band put on.
- What if my job doesn't let me wear a wristband?** The band can be worn in a different place, such as on your ankle. Please ask your health care provider about other options for wearing the band.
If you can't wear a band that long, then you can have your blood sample taken a day or two before your transfusion or surgery.
- What are the bands made of?** The bands are made of strong plastic. They are latex free and do not contain any powder.
- Can the band get wet?** The bands are water resistant. They should not get in the way of any of your normal activities. You may bathe, shower or even go swimming as usual. If the number in the band does get wet and you can't read it, please contact your health care provider.
- What is the date written on the band?** The date on the band is the date your blood sample was drawn. This tells the hospital how long you have blood available to you.