

Having Your Blood Type Verified

If you are having surgery or a procedure and you need a special blood test (a type and screen or crossmatch), you might be asked to have your blood type double-checked (verified).

Why do I need to have my blood type verified?

Having your blood type verified helps keep you safe by making sure you get the right type of blood if you need a transfusion. There are different blood types. The type of blood that you need depends on what blood type you are. If you get a blood transfusion with the wrong type of blood, you could die.

How is my blood type verified?

To verify your blood type, you will need a second blood sample taken by another healthcare provider at the same time as your other blood work **or** from the same healthcare provider at a different time.

You will have your blood work done at a lab. A healthcare provider will check your records to see if you have ever had your blood type tested before. If you have, you don't need to have an extra blood sample taken with your type and screen or crossmatch. If not, your healthcare provider will ask you about having your blood type verified.

How often do I need to have my blood type verified?

You need your blood type verified whenever you need a blood transfusion. The first time you ever get a blood transfusion, you might need to have your blood type tested twice.

What if the blood types from my two samples don't match?

Your blood type samples should always be the same (match). Your blood type never changes unless you have had a bone marrow or stem cell transplant or if there has been an error. If there is ever a problem with your blood type testing, talk to your doctor or healthcare provider. If there is a problem with your blood type result, you might need to have another blood sample taken. If you need a blood transfusion right away, this will not delay your treatment. It is safe for anyone to receive a transfusion of group O blood.

Do I have to have my blood type verified?

Although it is a good idea to have your blood type verified, you do not have to do it.

Can I still have a blood transfusion if I don't have my blood type verified?

If you need a blood transfusion, you will always get one whether you have your blood type verified or not. In an emergency, you will receive a transfusion of group O blood because it is safe for anyone.

Where can I get more information?

If you have questions about having your blood type verified:

- ask your healthcare provider at the lab to page the on-call doctor that specializes in blood (Transfusion Medicine Doctor)
- call the Transfusion Safety Coordinator Mondays to Fridays from 7:00 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. at 780-407-6805

This material is for information purposes only. It should not be used in place of medical advice, instruction and/or treatment. If you have questions, speak with your doctor or appropriate healthcare provider.