

# Getting Ready For a Blood Transfusion

Pre-Transfusion Laboratory Testing



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
**CHICAGO**  
MEDICINE

You have the right to help plan your care, learn about your health condition and treatment, and talk with your caregivers.

You always have the right to refuse treatment.

**Ask your care team any questions you have about these lab tests.**

**Thank You for Coming to the University of Chicago Medicine**

## Laboratory Tests You Will Need

### Type and Screen Blood Test

You will need to have a type and screen blood test at a University of Chicago Medicine lab. This test tells us your blood type (type A, B, AB, or O) so we know what blood to give you.

**The type and screen blood test can be done up to 28 days before your procedure or transfusion if you:**

- Have not had a positive antibody screening test
- Have not been pregnant in the last 3 months
- Have not had a blood transfusion in the last 3 months

### ABO Verification Test

**If you have never had a type and screen test at University Chicago Medicine, you will also need an ABO Verification Test.**

This test re-checks your blood type (type A, B, AB, or O) and must be taken from a second needle stick. This test is a national safety requirement that labs follow to lower transfusion risks. You will not have to do this test again after today.

### Why This is Important

Blood transfusions are safe but there are risks. One risk is getting blood that does not match your blood type, and this can be fatal. Having a second blood test for ABO verification helps to make sure you get a blood transfusion that matches your blood type.