Your Type and Screen Blood Test

Why do I need a type and screen blood test?

The hospital must have blood ready before your surgery in case you need it. If we give you blood, it has to match (be compatible with) your blood. The type and screen blood test helps us find the best match.

**Blood types**

There are four main blood types: O, A, B or AB. A sample of your blood will tell us your type.

**Screen**

A screen looks for antibodies. If you have been pregnant or received blood, there is a chance that your body made antibodies. Antibodies protect you from illness. But they can cause a bad reaction when you receive donor blood. The screen helps us find a safer match.

When do I need to get this test?

You should have the test 1 to 30 days before surgery. **But some patients need to have the test 1 to 3 days before surgery.** This is true for you if you:

- Were pregnant during the last 3 months.
- Received a blood transfusion during the last 3 months.
- Have antibodies in your blood.

The test cannot be done the same day as surgery. If you wait too long, we may have to delay surgery.

How do I get a type and screen?

- You may schedule the test at any Fairview clinic. For a list of clinics, go to www.fairview.org.
- **You must bring the order for type and screen** (Blood Bank Preadmission Order) with you. This paperwork is required.
- If you change the date of your surgery, you may need to repeat your type and screen test.

Questions?

University of Minnesota Medical Center, Fairview
East Bank: 612-273-3613
West Bank: 612-273-6312

If you are deaf or hard of hearing, please let us know. We provide many free services including sign language interpreters, oral interpreters, TTY, telephone amplifiers, note takers and written materials.