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 type**

There are four main blood types: O, A, B and 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 get 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.

Don’t delay this test until the same day as your surgery. If you do, we may have to delay or cancel your 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](http://www.fairview.org).

- Bring your Blood Bank Preadmission Order. This is the the order for type and screen, and you **must** bring it with you to the test.

- If you change the date of your surgery, you may need to take the type and screen test again.

Call us if you have any questions.