



Arterial Blood Gas

Welcome and thank you for choosing Bradford Regional Medical Center (BRMC), for your Arterial Blood Gas test. Our physicians and respiratory therapists are dedicated to providing highly skilled and compassionate care for you and your family. We understand that you may be apprehensive about your procedure. We hope the following information will be helpful to you as you prepare for your procedure.

Arterial blood Gas results are used to help assess many lung disorders including chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), emphysema, as well as cardiac issues.

The BRMC Outpatient testing Lab is located on the 1st floor of the hospital's annex building. The Outpatient Registration and Lab area as well as other medical offices and clinics are located here. When you enter through the doors, you will immediately see the concierge. They can direct you to where to the lab and supply a wheelchair if one is required. We want to make your experience as comfortable as possible. If you have any questions or concerns that are not answered here, please do not hesitate to call your physician or the Respiratory Department at (814) 362-8296 between 7:00 AM and 3:30 PM Monday - Friday. All other times, please leave message and phone number that you can be contacted at.

Before Your Procedure

Your physician's office may schedule the date and time of your procedure with BRMC's Outpatient Lab and/or X-ray Department or they may also give you an order for the Arterial Blood Gas and direct you to go to BRMC Outpatient Lab. If you have any questions or concerns that are not answered, please do not hesitate to call you physician or the Respiratory Therapy Department at (814)362-8296. You or your physician's office will be provided any necessary instructions when the exam is scheduled.

If you aren't feeling well, please call your physician. It may be necessary to reschedule your test for a time when you are feeling better.

Do Not smoke for at least 12 hours prior to test.

On the Morning of Your Procedure

Wear loose fitting or short sleeved shirt. Do not bring any valuables with you.

You may be accompanied by one adult family member or friend however we ask that they wait in the waiting area during your procedure. Children should not accompany adults having a procedure.

Day of the Procedure

Parking is available in the area directly in front of the Main entrance. When you arrive at the hospital please report to the Outpatient Registration and Lab area. When you enter through the doors, you will immediately see the concierge who can direct you to the lab and supply a wheelchair if one is required.

It is important to bring the prescription and/or order requisition from your Physician as well as your insurance card. You will then have to register with the Registration Clerk. At this time, you can let the clerk know if you are to have any other testing that day. You will sign in at registration desk and have a seat in the waiting room. If you are a new patient you will need to fill out an information form.

Since your safety is our number one priority, the staff may ask you the same questions several times. They will ask your name, birth date, what procedure you are having done, your medications and your allergies. By repeating our questions, we are verifying and re-verifying very important information to ensure that your time with us is as safe as possible. Please be prepared to tell the respiratory therapist when you last took each of your medications.

During the Procedure

You will be taken back to a lab room and will be asked to sit in a chair. The respiratory therapist will explain everything that is happening. You will be asked to make a fist and relax. The Respiratory Therapist will prep your skin with an alcohol pad and will feel your radial pulse which is located under your wrist. This is where your arterial blood gas is obtained. Only a very small amount of blood is needed for the sample. After the draw, a gauze pad will be taped snugly into place. Please allow 30mins before removing.

Some people report some tenderness and slight bruising afterwards. This should dissipate within 1-2 days.

After Your Procedure

Your time in the Lab will vary depending upon the labs that you had done. You will be discharged immediately after the test unless requiring other testing and then you will be directed where to go.

You can generally resume all of your medication immediately unless otherwise instructed.

The therapist is not permitted to discuss your results. The results are faxed to the ordering physician. Your doctor will generally discuss the results with you at your next physician's office visit. Talk with your doctor or testing center about how to get your test results

Thank you for allowing us to take care of you during your Arterial Blood Gas test.