Blood Tests

Blood tests were taken today. This is often done to evaluate a medical condition. Small amounts of blood are usually taken from a vein in your arm. The blood samples are then sent to the lab for analysis. Many types of tests can be run on blood and some of them include:

- **CBC**–This test measures the levels of various cells in the blood (such as hemoglobin, white blood cells and platelets). This test helps to determine such conditions as anemia, infection, leukemia and clotting problems.
- **Chemistries**–These tests measure the levels of various minerals (electrolytes) in the blood (such as magnesium, potassium, sodium and chloride). These tests evaluate heart, liver, pancreas and kidney function.
- **Antibody testing**–AIDS and other viral infections, many diseases caused by germs (bacterial diseases), and inflammatory diseases (such as arthritis) may be evaluated by these tests.
- **Lipids**–These tests measure cholesterol levels, including HDL (good cholesterol), LDL (bad cholesterol) and triglyceride levels. Lipid levels can be used to determine the risk of developing heart disease.
- **Drug tests**–These tests measure the levels of some drugs, such as seizure medicines and medicines that kill germs (antibiotics). Knowing the levels helps your caregiver accurately adjust the dose of medicines.
- **Clotting studies**–These tests measure the time it takes for your blood to clot (such as prothrombin time and INR). Knowing the levels can help your caregiver accurately adjust the dose of blood thinners.
- **Hormone levels**–These tests measure levels of certain chemicals (hormones) in the body. Thyroid function tests are usually done to diagnose thyroid problems and to follow treatment.

These are just some of the tests done on blood.

If you notice unusual swelling, redness or tenderness around the needle puncture site, contact your caregiver.

Not all test results are available during your visit. If your test results are not back during the visit, make an appointment with your caregiver to find out the results. Do not assume everything is normal if you have not heard from your caregiver or the medical facility. It is important for you to follow up on all of your test results.

Document Released: 12/18/2006 Document Re-Released: 03/14/2011
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