

Blood gases

Description	Arterial blood gas measurements of pH, pO ₂ and pCO ₂ and bicarbonate.
Indication	Dyspnoea, hyperventilation, to monitor oxygen therapy, to investigate abnormalities of serum bicarbonate.
Additional Info	Samples should be collected into a heparinised syringe. At least 2ml of blood is required. Care must be taken to ensure the sample is free from air bubbles. When the sample is taken it should be mixed by rotation between the palms of the hands to disperse the heparin. Samples should be fully labelled in accordance with the Minimum Data Policy and packed in crushed ice. Samples should be delivered to the lab ASAP via porter. Under NO circumstances should the pneumatic tube be used.
Concurrent Tests	Ketones and lactate
Dietary Requirements	N/A
Interpretation	Results can be used to determine the presence of an alkalosis and or acidosis and can indicate its origin namely metabolic or respiratory. For further information regarding interpretation contact the duty biochemist.
Collection Conditions	Arterial blood specimen collected in a heparinised syringe. Mix sample well to disperse heparin. Transport to the lab immediately on ice via porter. DO NOT USE PNEUMATIC TUBE.
Frequency of testing	As required