

## Laboratory Tests

If you've ever had to give a tube of blood or a little cup of urine in your doctor's office, you've had a laboratory test.

Laboratory tests check a sample of your blood, urine or body tissues. A technician or your doctor analyzes the test samples to see if your results fall within the normal range.



The tests use a range because what is normal differs from person to person. Many factors affect test results.

These include:

- Your sex, age and race
- What you eat and drink
- Medicines you take
- How well you followed pre-test instructions

Your doctor may also compare your results to results from previous tests.

Laboratory tests are often part of a routine checkup to look for changes in your health.

They also help doctors diagnose medical conditions, plan or evaluate treatments, and monitor diseases.

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