

BLOOD GLUCOSE TEST (DIABETES SCREEN)

This test is performed to detect diabetes or a pre-diabetic condition. Diabetes is a leading cause of death worldwide, particularly in developed countries. It is estimated that nearly one-third of all people with diabetes in the U.S. are not even aware they have the disease. Diabetes is caused by the body's inability to properly process glucose, a form of sugar found in your bloodstream, into energy.

What should I do with my results?

It is always recommended that you meet with a doctor to determine what your laboratory test results mean to you. Your doctor will review all of your test results and, combined with your health history, will be able to provide an accurate picture of your health status.

If any of your results were abnormal or out-of-range: Your abnormally high results may indicate that you have impaired fasting glucose (pre- diabetes) or diabetes. Abnormally low results can indicate hypoglycemia. As with any abnormal results, it's important that you discuss their implications with your physician.

If your results were within normal range: If your diabetes screen test result was within normal range, you should follow the screening guidelines as suggested by your physician for your age and health status.

The American Diabetes Association recommends the following:

- If you are at risk for Type 2 diabetes – begin at age 30 with fasting glucose test.

Risk factors include: obesity, family history, ethnicity – African American, Hispanic American, Native American, or Asian American, gestational diabetes during pregnancy, high blood pressure, high triglycerides, high cholesterol, or low HDL.

- If you are not at risk for Type 2 diabetes – begin testing by age 45 with fasting glucose, followed by tests every three years thereafter.
- If you are pregnant, you should be screened for diabetes between your 24th and 28th week of pregnancy.