



430 The Boardwalk
Waterloo, Ontario, N2T 0C1
Daytime Suite 206
Evenings & Weekends Follow signage

Tel: 519.741.5252
Fax: 519.741.5772
e-mail: cps.admin@kwcps.com
www.kwcps.com

Arterial Blood Gas

What is an Arterial blood Gas?

An Arterial Blood Gas is a sample of blood drawn from a small artery in your wrist. This measures how effectively your body is absorbing oxygen and getting rid of carbon dioxide.

How is the test performed?

A Registered Respiratory Therapist or Nurse will use a needle to draw a small sample (1-2 mL) of blood from your wrist. This sample will be tested in our office and results will be sent to your doctor.

How do I prepare for the test?

Please refrain from smoking prior to your appointment. If you are using home oxygen, you may be asked to remove this for 15-20 minutes before the test.

How will the test feel?

Unlike most blood tests, the Arterial Blood Gas is drawn from an artery which is surrounded by nerves. As such, it tends to be more uncomfortable than most needles. Some patients feel a tingling sensation for a few minutes after the needle is removed. There may be some bruising at the site of the needle.



430 The Boardwalk
Waterloo, Ontario, N2T 0C1
Daytime Suite 206
Evenings & Weekends Follow signage

Tel: 519.741.5252
Fax: 519.741.5772
e-mail: cps.admin@kwcps.com
www.kwcps.com

Why did my doctor ask for this test?

Arterial Blood Gasses are the most accurate way to measure your body's oxygen content. Your doctor may have asked for this test for any of the following:

- Evaluate the progress of lung disease such as emphysema or COPD
- Evaluate a need for supplemental oxygen therapy at home
- Follow-up after a Pulmonary Function (breathing) Test
- Evaluate a baseline before surgery