



Glucose Tolerance Tests – Patient Instructions during the Test

Your physician has ordered a glucose tolerance test for you. This test is used to diagnose diabetes. When you arrive at the Patient Service Center, your phlebotomist will guide you through the process. You will be asked to drink as quickly as possible a sugary beverage, commonly referred to as glucola. Blood will be drawn several times during the testing process:

- Before you drink the beverage.
- One to six additional blood draws occurring at defined intervals depending on the tolerance test requested by your physician.

For the most accurate test results, please review the information provided below. If you have any questions or concerns pertaining to the purpose or preparation of this test, please speak with your physician.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. **My physician says I need to fast for eight hours. What does that mean?** Fasting means to not eat or drink anything except water for a minimum of eight hours before testing begins. This includes, but not limited to, hard candies, gum, crackers, sugar-free substitutes (*i.e.*, Equal© or Splenda©) and any liquids other than water.
2. **Can I have black coffee or tea?** No, you may sip one 8 oz. glass of water per hour during the fasting or testing period.
3. **How long will the test take and how many specimens are drawn?** Depending on which test the physician has ordered for you, the test takes 1-5 hours and 1-7 tubes of blood are drawn.
4. **What happens if my fasting glucose result is greater than or equal to 126 mg/dL?** For your safety, testing will be stopped and the physician will be contacted. For your safety, testing may be rescheduled for another time.
5. **Can I leave the waiting area during the testing period?** No, plan to be in the waiting area during the testing period except for bathroom breaks. This is for your own safety. In addition, walking or exercise can affect the test results. Also, it is important for you to have your blood drawn within the scheduled time(s). The phlebotomist will inform you when you need to have your blood drawn. During the COVID-19 pandemic, if safe social distancing of six feet or more cannot be maintained in the waiting room, you may wait outside the facility, or in your car. Walking should be minimized wherever possible and you must return promptly to have your blood drawn at the scheduled time(s).
6. **What happens if my blood is not drawn during the appropriate time window?** If blood is drawn outside the acceptable window, then the test will have to be cancelled and rescheduled. Changes to the time of draw make interpreting the test difficult.
7. **May I smoke during the testing period?** No, smoking is not permitted during the testing period.
8. **Why can't I breastfeed or pump during the testing period?** Breastfeeding or pumping during the testing period may change the results of your test.
9. **What should I do if I get sick or vomit during the test?** Please notify the phlebotomist right away. For your safety, the test may need to be rescheduled.

Your blood is scheduled to be drawn at the following times:

Today's Date: _____ Fasting Specimen (or Start Time): _____

Timed Specimen #1: _____ Timed Specimen #3: _____ Timed Specimen #5: _____

Timed Specimen #2: _____ Timed Specimen #4: _____ Timed Specimen #6: _____

A phlebotomist will call you back to the lab for these blood draws. If you have not been called within 5 minutes of your draw time, please notify lab personnel immediately. Thank you.