

# BLOOD GASES

## Orderable - BG

Turnaround Time: 30 minutes (Cord gases: 1 hour)

STAT: 15 minutes

### Specimen:

See Note in Interpretive Comments.

### Collection Information:

Samples that are clotted, have an insufficient amount, contain bubbles, are not received within 60 minutes of collection time, or are leaking will be canceled.

Syringes, minimum volume  
Electrolyte-balanced heparin in blood gas syringes

- Arterial, 3 mL
- Venous, 3 mL
- Capillary, completely filled 170 µL
  - o Mixing wire (flea), caps, plastic capillary (lithium heparin, balanced)
  - o Free-flowing sample, completely filled, air free, with sealed ends (caps tight)

#### Labeling:

Put small Cerner label on syringe and place in biohazard bag with large Cerner label in the outside pocket of the biohazard bag.

#### Transport for blood gas specimens:

Send specimens to the laboratory immediately at room temperature. Suggested transport time is 15 min. Do NOT freeze.

If specimens will not be received in lab within 30 mins, transport on ice slurry.

#### Special Processing:

- Avoid air bubbles when collecting specimen. Air bubbles will falsely increase pO<sub>2</sub> result.
- Mix capillary blood with metal flea by running magnet up and down full length of the tube multiple times, to prevent clotting. Not mixing immediately will result in microclots formation that can affect results



**Laboratory:**  
Core Lab



**Requisition:**  
GENERAL LABORATORY  
REQUISITION



**Method of Analysis:**  
GEM Premier 5000 Blood  
Gas Analyzer

- Amperometric: pO<sub>2</sub>
- Potentiometric: pH,  
pCO<sub>2</sub>
- Calculated parameters:  
O<sub>2</sub> Saturation

Please note that the measured %saturation (sO<sub>2</sub>) overestimates oxygenation status in the presence of dyshemoglobins (carboxyHb & metHb) and may result greater than 100%.

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## Reference Ranges:

Analyte	Age Range	Arterial/Ca pillary	Venous	Units
pH	birth-1 day	7.29 - 7.45	7.32 - 7.42	
	2 days-adult	7.35 - 7.45	7.32 - 7.42	
pCO <sub>2</sub>	birth - 2 days	27 - 40	38 - 50	mmHg
	2 days - adult	35 - 45	38 - 50	mmHg
pO <sub>2</sub>	birth - 2 days	54 - 95	30 - 50	mmHg
	2 days - adult	83 - 108	30 - 50	mmHg
Base Excess (BE)	(all)	(-2) - 3	(-2) - 3	mmol/L
O <sub>2</sub> saturation, calculated	(all)	N/A	N/A	%



Test Schedule:  
As required

## Comments:

	Critical Low	Critical High
pH	7.20	7.60
pCO <sub>2</sub>	20	60
pO <sub>2</sub> (arterial only)	40	

## Storage and Shipment:

- Send all blood gas specimens to core laboratory at room temperature within 30 minutes
- Store on ice slurry if delay in analysis or delivery longer than 30 minutes
- Do not freeze

Please note that if the blood specimen was not received within the specified 30 minutes, some of the results may be affected.