

Blood Type (ABO/Rh)

Blood typing is used to determine an individual's blood group, to establish whether a person is blood group A, B, AB, or O and whether he or she is Rh positive or Rh negative.

What are blood types?

Blood types are based on the antigens on the surface of red blood cells. Two major antigens are the A and B antigens, while another important surface antigen is called Rh. Blood typing detects the presence or absence of these antigens to determine your ABO blood group and Rh type.

What do blood types mean?

The results of blood typing will determine if you are type A, B, AB, or O and if you are Rh negative or positive. The results will tell a healthcare provider what blood or blood components will be safe for you to receive.

Blood Group and Rh Type of Patient	Safe (Compatible) Blood Types for RBC Transfusion
A positive	A positive, A negative, O positive, O negative
A negative	A negative, O negative
B positive	B positive, B negative, O positive, O negative
B negative	B negative, O negative
AB positive	AB positive, AB negative, A positive, A negative, B positive, B negative, O positive, O negative
AB negative	AB negative, A negative, B negative, O negative
O positive	O positive, O negative
O negative	O negative

Why is knowing your blood type important?

There are several reasons you should know your blood type:

- Ensure compatibility between the blood type of a person who requires a transfusion of blood or blood components
- Determine compatibility between a pregnant woman and her developing baby (fetus)
- Determine the blood group of potential blood donors
- Determine the blood group of potential donors and recipients of organs, tissues, or bone marrow, as part of a workup for a transplant procedure
- To know your blood type in case of a medical emergency

What other resources are available to learn more about my health and laboratory tests?

- Lab Tests Online: labtestsonline.org
- WebMD: webmd.com

DLO Direct offers direct access to laboratory testing for informational purposes. A DLO Direct lab test result is not a medical diagnosis and is not intended as medical advice. Only a healthcare provider can interpret lab results and diagnose a medical condition or disease.

Because tests have not been ordered by a healthcare provider, third party entities, including Medicare and Medicaid, will not reimburse for these tests.



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