

**INFORMED DECISION-MAKING**

Prenatal Bloodwork: Questions and Choices

An overview of common prenatal labs, what they can show, and questions to discuss before testing.

Public education only. This guide is not a diagnosis, medical order, emergency service, or substitute for individualized consent and clinical assessment.

What prenatal bloodwork may include

- Complete blood count to look at red blood cells, hemoglobin, platelets, and signs of anemia or infection.
- Blood type, Rh factor, and antibody screening.
- Screening for infections such as hepatitis B, syphilis, HIV, and, when chosen or indicated, gonorrhea and chlamydia.
- Rubella immunity, glucose screening, and other tests based on history, gestational age, symptoms, and informed preference.

When testing is commonly offered

- Early pregnancy testing establishes a baseline and identifies information that may affect prenatal or newborn care.
- Later pregnancy testing may reassess anemia, antibodies, glucose, or other findings as indicated.
- Your exact panel and timing should reflect current guidelines, your history, and a shared decision with your care team.

Potential benefits

- Knowing blood type and Rh status can guide urgent care and Rh immune globulin counseling.
- Finding anemia may support timely nutrition, supplementation, further evaluation, and hemorrhage planning.
- Identifying infections can guide treatment and newborn preventive care.

Questions to ask

- Which tests are being offered, and what decision could each result change?
- What are the limits of the test, including false-positive or false-negative results?
- What happens if I delay, decline, or choose only part of the panel?
- How will results be shared, stored, and coordinated with consultants or hospital staff if needed?



Important: This guide is educational and is not a consent form. Testing decisions should be documented privately in your clinical record after individualized counseling.

Further reading

- [American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists - Routine Tests During Pregnancy](#)

Questions for your next visit

Use the space below to write questions, preferences, or details you want to discuss privately with your care team.
