Know about your blood work

For patients getting chemotherapy at the Princess Margaret Cancer Centre

Read this resource to learn:

• Why you need blood work before chemotherapy
• When you need to have your blood work done
• Where you can have your blood work done
Why do I need to have blood work done before every chemotherapy appointment?

You need blood work done before every chemotherapy (chemo) treatment appointment to make sure it is safe for you to have your chemo.

If your blood counts are too high or too low, it may not be safe for you to get your treatment. Read ‘Understanding Blood Counts’ for more information. A member of your health care team may contact you if your blood counts are not safe for treatment. Otherwise, please attend your treatment appointment as scheduled.

Visit this web page to read the pamphlet online:

When do I need to get my blood work done?

You need to have blood work done 1 – 2 days (24 – 48 hours) before your chemotherapy. Talk to your health care team and follow the directions on your appointment itinerary. This will be given to you by the Patient Flow Coordinator (front desk staff) before you leave the clinic.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>If you are having your chemo treatment</th>
<th>You should have your blood work done</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Every week (weekly)</td>
<td>Before noon, 1 day (24 hours) before your chemo appointment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Every 2 weeks</td>
<td>2 days (48 hours) before your chemo appointment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Every 3 weeks</td>
<td>2 days (48 hours) before your chemo appointment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Every 4 weeks</td>
<td>2 days (48 hours) before your chemo appointment</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Where can I have my blood work done?**

You can have your blood work done at:

**Princess Margaret Cancer Centre’s Blood Lab**, Monday to Friday, 7:00 am – 5:00 pm (closed on Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays)

The lab is located on the main floor, room 624, next to the Outpatient pharmacy and directly across from the Nicolby’s gift shop.

You may be able to have blood work done at a community lab. Speak with your health care team to see if it would work for you.

If you go to a community lab, you will be given a paper requisition form that tells you which blood work you need. You must take this form with you to your community lab appointment. Results will be available to the Princess Margaret team.

Find out where the closest community lab is to you:

**Gamma-Dynacare**
Website: [www.dynacare.ca/find-a-location](http://www.dynacare.ca/find-a-location)
Phone: 1 800 565 5721

**LifeLabs**
Website: [https://locations.lifelabs.com](https://locations.lifelabs.com)
Phone: 1 877 849 3637

**CML Healthcare Inc.**
Website: [http://cmlhealthcare.com](http://cmlhealthcare.com)
Phone: 1 877 849 3637
What should I do if I lose the paper requisition form?

Contact your doctor’s office (found on the Patient Contact Sheet available in your clinic). You can also call the hospital, 416 946 4501 and be transferred to your doctor’s office.

What happens if there is a 3-day weekend?

Your patient appointment itinerary will tell you when to have your blood work done if there is a 3-day weekend.

What do I do if I live out of town and cannot have my blood work done at a community lab?

If you cannot have your blood work done in a community lab or would prefer to come to the Princess Margaret, you may choose to stay at the Princess Margaret Cancer Centre Lodge. The Lodge offers low cost stays for patients who live outside the Greater Toronto Area.

For more information, call guest services at: 416 413 7426.

There are also a number of hotels within walking distance of Princess Margaret. For more information, call 416 946 4525 or visit our website: www.uhn.ca/PatientsFamilies/Patient_Services/Pages/places_to_stay.aspx

Is there help to get me to the Princess Margaret?

Volunteer driving services may be available to help you get to the hospital for your appointments. Pick up the pamphlet ‘Driving Services to Medical Appointments’ from the Patient & Family Library on the main floor of the Princess Margaret for more information.

Visit this web page to read the pamphlet online: http://bit.ly/2d04SCk
I am on a clinical trial. When do I need to have blood work done?

The clinical trials protocol (study plan) tells you what day you must have your blood work done before treatment. This will be on your patient appointment itinerary. Blood work is done either the day before or two days before you are booked for treatment.