



YOUR CHILD AND BLOOD WORK

Your child's doctor or nurse may ask you to take your child to his/her pediatrician, local lab, or hospital to have a medication drug level drawn. A drug level measures the amount of medicine in someone's blood. Other blood tests might be done at the same time. Different tests are done based on what seizure medicines your child takes.

Blood test results give doctors important information about your child's response to certain seizure medicines. Drug levels are not measured for all seizure medicines. When they are measured, the doctor usually wants a **TROUGH** level of the medicine.

In order to have a **TROUGH** blood level drawn, follow these instructions:

1. Give your child's evening dose as usual the night before their blood is to be drawn.
2. Take your child to the lab **BEFORE** they have taken their morning dose of seizure medication. This may require taking them to the lab as soon as it opens; depending on what time they usually take their medicine. Take the morning medicine with you to the lab. After the blood is drawn, give the seizure medicine to your child.
3. Please ask the lab to fax the results to our clinic. The doctor/nurse ordering the blood work should also request this, but it is good to make sure that this is done.
4. Some results might not be ready for as long as 7 days (for example, Topamax, Trileptal, Lamictal, and Keppra). Other drug levels are usually ready within 24 hours (for example, Depakote, Phenobarbital, and Dilantin).

It is important that you do not have blood drawn after giving your child's morning medicine because the results may be inaccurate and the test would need to be repeated.

Our clinic's fax number is 434-982-0606; our phone number is 434-924-5401