



# Campbell County Memorial Hospital

**CAMPBELL COUNTY HEALTH**

**CARDIOPULMONARY**

## **Arterial Blood Gases (ABG)**

### **An arterial blood gas (ABG) test is done to:**

Check for severe breathing problems and lung diseases, such as asthma, cystic fibrosis, or chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). See how well treatment for lung diseases is working. Find out if you need extra oxygen or help with breathing (mechanical ventilation). Find out if you are receiving the right amount of oxygen when you are using oxygen in the hospital. Measure the acid-base level in the blood of people who have heart failure, kidney failure, uncontrolled diabetes, sleep disorders, severe infections, or after a drug overdose.

### **What is done during an ABG?**

A sample of blood from an artery is usually taken from the inside of the wrist (radial artery). You will be seated with your arm extended and your wrist resting on a bedside table.

The Respiratory Therapist taking a sample of your blood will:

- Clean the needle site with alcohol.
- Put the needle into the artery. More than one needle stick may be needed. Allow the blood to fill the syringe. Be sure to breathe normally while your blood is being collected.
- Put a gauze pad or cotton ball over the needle site as the needle is removed. Put a bandage over the puncture site and apply firm pressure for five (5)-10 minutes (possibly longer if you take blood-thinning medicine or have bleeding problems).

Collecting blood from an artery is more painful than collecting it from a vein because the arteries are deeper and are protected by nerves. Most people feel a brief, sharp pain as the needle to collect the blood sample enters the artery.

### **How long will it take?**

The procedure will take approximately 20-30 minutes.

### **How do you schedule your test?**

Cardiopulmonary services require an order to perform outpatient procedures. Please contact Cardiopulmonary Services at 307-688-2301 for questions regarding outpatient procedures or the steps to have your physician order your needed procedure; or visit [www.cchwyo.org/CPS](http://www.cchwyo.org/CPS).

### **On the day of your scheduled test**

*Report to Patient Access/Registration on the first floor of Campbell County Memorial Hospital, 501 S. Burma Avenue, 20 to 30 minutes before your scheduled appointment to be checked in and registered. You will then be directed to the Cardiopulmonary Services Department on the Second Floor, North of the hospital.*

Campbell County Memorial Hospital's Cardiopulmonary Services (CPS) Department strives to be your first choice for Cardiopulmonary Services by providing superior quality testing, procedures, and outstanding customer service.

**For questions, please contact CPS at 307-688-2301.**