

WHAT IS A LABORATORY TEST?



KNOWLEDGE IS POWER. BEING INFORMED HELPS YOU CATCH MEDICAL ERRORS EARLY.

QUESTIONS TO ASK YOUR DOCTOR

- When a doctor orders a test, ask the following questions:
 - Why do I need this test?
 - What will the test tell us?
 - How will the results affect my care?
 - When and how will I receive my results?

WHY DO PATIENTS NEED TO BE INFORMED?

- Tests can be done incorrectly
- The wrong test could be ordered
- The lab may mix up results
- Sometimes test results even get lost

HOW CAN PATIENTS HELP PREVENT ERRORS?

- Confirm your name and date of birth on every test and lab slip
- Ask what test is being done and why
- Ensure your doctor explains when you will receive the results and how you will be notified
- Write down the date, type of test and the name of the doctor ordering the test
- If you do not hear back within the expected timeframe, follow up with your doctor



IF YOU HAVEN'T HEARD ABOUT YOUR TEST RESULTS, FOLLOW UP. YOUR HEALTH DEPENDS ON IT.

PREVENT ERRORS

Patient Checklist	✓
Confirm your name and date of birth on every test and lab slip	
Ask what test is being done and why	
Ensure your doctor explains when you will receive the results and how you will be notified	
If you do not hear back within the expected timeframe, follow up with your doctor	

Date	Type of Test	Doctor's Name