



## Medication blood tests

Blood tests can be used to check whether the doses of certain medications need adjusting.

Your doctor can use blood tests to adjust the doses of some of your tablets.

This is useful for some heart tablets such as Digoxin (Lanoxin), some epilepsy tablets such as Phenytoin (Dilantin), and other tablets such as Lithium.

The most important thing is that the blood test is performed when the medication is at its lowest level in your system. The easiest way to do this is to delay taking your morning tablet until after your blood test. For most tablets, this will mean that the last dose is at least 8 hours ago.

One exception is Lithium where some doctors prefer the blood test to be done exactly 12 hours after the last dose.

Another exception is Cyclosporin (Neoral) where some doctors like to test exactly 2 hours after the last dose.

Please tell the pathology collector the time and amount of your last dose.

If you are unsure about any of your medications, please speak with your doctor.