

# *facts about...*

## *Laboratory Tests*

### ***Post-Blood Draw Instructions:***

Please keep the puncture site clean and dry. Do not lift anything heavy for the next two hours using the arm or hand of your blood draw. You may remove the bandage in a half hour. In the unlikely event you have swelling or the site becomes red and hot, contact your physician. Discoloration may occur but is not cause for concern.

### ***Explanation of Ordered Tests:***

Your test results will be sent to the doctor who ordered the tests and to any other physician(s) indicated on the order. Your phlebotomist (blood draw technician) can explain the collection procedure(s) and the names of the tests ordered. The phlebotomist is not qualified to explain why your doctor ordered the tests, how the tests are performed or what the results mean. Specific information about many laboratory tests is available at [www.labtestsonline.org](http://www.labtestsonline.org).

### ***Obtaining Test Results:***

#### ***What to expect:***

Most routine lab test results are available the next day. A few more complex tests may take as long as several weeks to complete. The actual time it takes for your doctor to receive your results depends on what tests were ordered and whether or not he/she receives them electronically. Your physician can call the lab for results at any time if results are needed sooner.

Patients signed up with NorthShore Connect have access to most test results 3 days after they are reported to the ordering physician. Some pathology tests will be available after 7 days and a few after 14 days. Your physician's office can provide additional information on obtaining test results.

#### ***What to do:***

Follow your doctor's instruction about how to obtain your results. Results are best provided to you by your physician, who can discuss, interpret and correlate your test results with your clinical conditions and symptoms. You may obtain your own results via:

- ***Online:*** Go to [www.northshoreconnect.org](http://www.northshoreconnect.org) for *NorthShore Connect* sign-up and access.
- ***Directly from the Lab:*** Bring a photo ID with signature to the laboratory and complete a *Release of Confidential Information* form. You must do this in person.