

# APPOINTMENT INFORMATION

This test will be performed at one of the following four locations:

**South East:** 103, 51 Sunpark Drive SE, Calgary, AB T2X 3V4

**North East:** 1011, 53 Avenue NE, Calgary, AB T2E 6X9

**South West:** 320, 5504 Macleod Trail SW, Calgary, AB T2H 0J5

**North West:** 102, 60 Crowfoot Crescent NW, Calgary, AB T3G 3J9

## Arterial Blood Gases Test

### What is an arterial blood gas?

Arterial blood gases (ABG) measure the acidity (pH) and the levels of oxygen and carbon dioxide in the blood from an artery. This test is used to find out how well your lungs are able to move oxygen into the blood and remove carbon dioxide from the blood. Blood for an ABG test is taken from an artery. Most other blood tests are done on a sample of blood taken from a vein, after the blood has already passed through the body's tissues where the oxygen is used up and carbon dioxide is produced. It usually takes about **30 minutes** to complete this test.

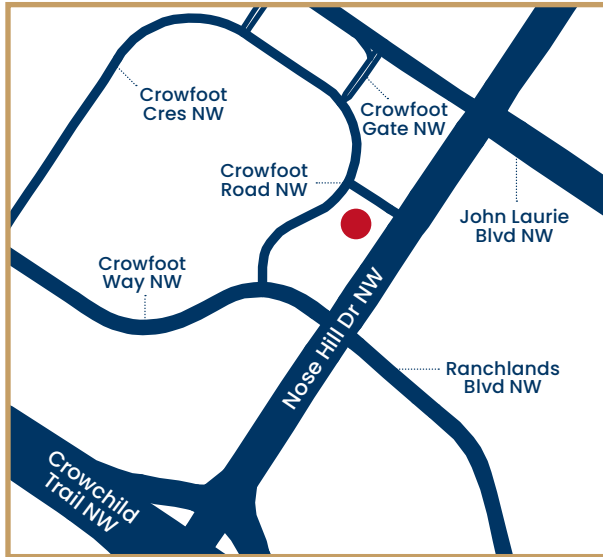
### What should I know before doing an Arterial Blood Gas?

If you are on oxygen therapy, the oxygen will be turned off for **20 minutes** before the blood test. This is called a "room air" test. Please bring your portable oxygen equipment with you to your appointment.

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 small pillow. The Respiratory Therapist taking the blood may rotate your hand back and forth and feel for a pulse in your wrist.

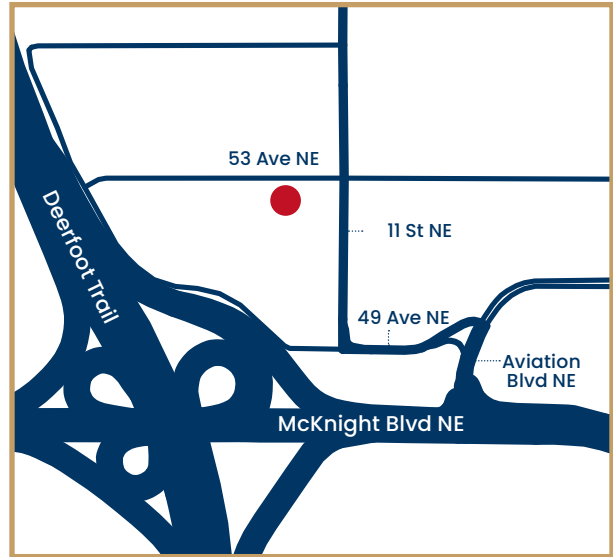
Collecting blood from an artery is more painful than collecting it from a vein. That's because the arteries are deeper and are surrounded by nerves. Most people feel a brief, sharp pain as the needle to collect the blood sample enters the artery. You may feel more pain if your artery is *narrowed*, or if you are *very sensitive to pain*.

# WHERE TO FIND US



**North West**  
Crowchild Trail NW  
& Nose Hill Dr. NW

102, 60 Crowfoot Crescent  
NW, Calgary, AB T3G 3J9



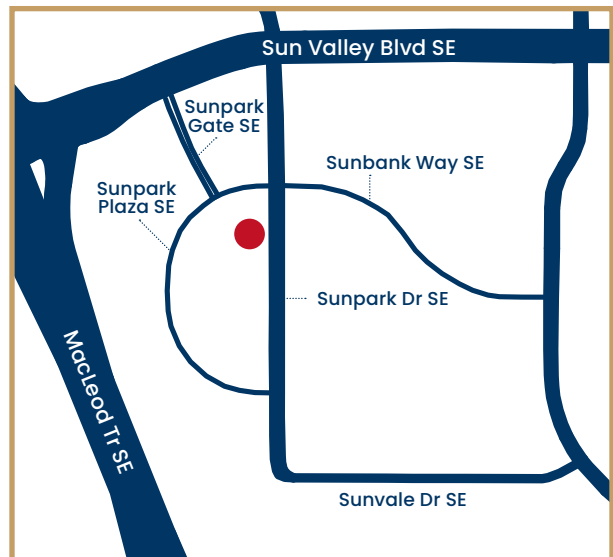
**North East**  
Deerfoot Trail North  
& McKnight Blvd. NE

1011, 53 Avenue NE  
Calgary, AB T2E 6X9



**South West**  
MacLeod Trail South  
& 58 Avenue SW

320, 5504 Macleod Trail SW,  
Calgary, AB T2H 0J5



**South East**  
MacLeod Trail South  
& Sun Valley Blvd. SE

103, 51 Sunpark Drive SE  
Calgary, AB T2X 3V4