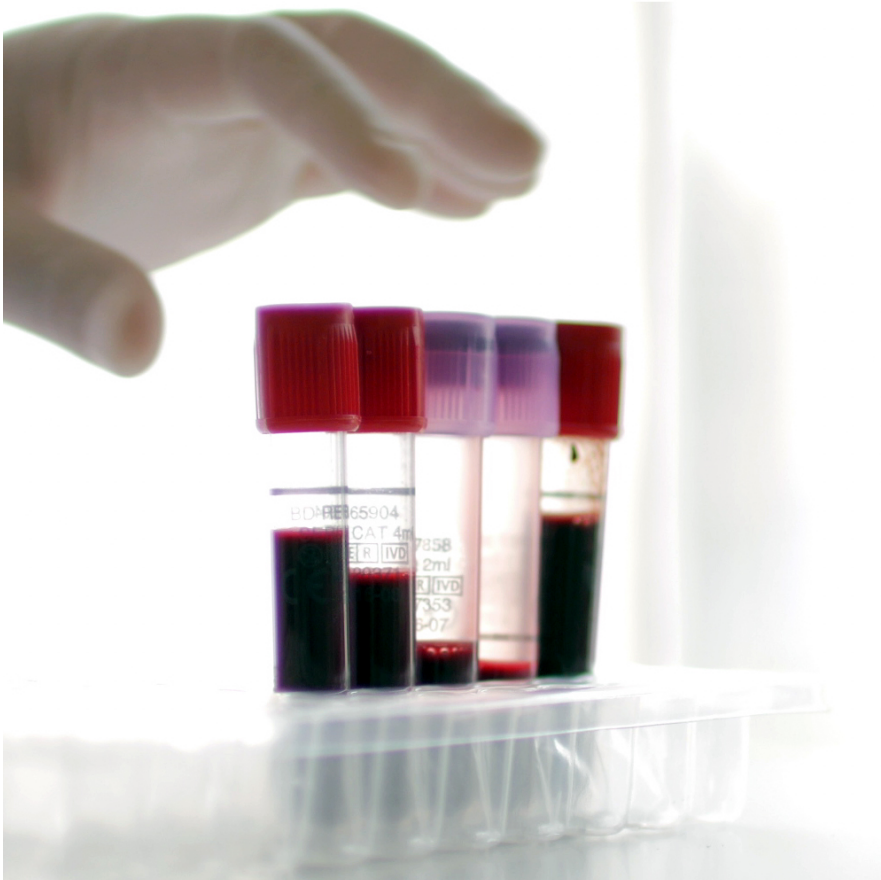




Allergy Blood Test



Overview

This test of your blood shows if you're allergic to something you've been in contact with. It's a simple test that you don't need to prepare for.

Why do you need this test?

Why do you need this test? Your doctor may order an allergy blood test if you have symptoms of allergies. These include things like sneezing, itchy eyes, coughing and hives.

Blood sample

We do the test by using a small needle to take a sample of blood from a vein in your arm. We collect the blood in a tube and send it to a lab. There, it's studied for the presence of antibodies. What are antibodies? They're proteins your immune system makes to protect your body from germs and other invaders. When you have an allergy, your immune system overreacts. It makes antibodies even though it doesn't need to. An allergy blood test can show us if you have more antibodies in your blood than you should. Or, we can look for antibodies linked to specific allergens.

Conclusion

If the test shows that you have an allergy, you may be sent to an allergy specialist to get more info. Your doctor will create a care plan that's right for you.