

What is a blood bank band?

A blood bank band is used to make sure your child gets the right blood type for a transfusion. This band is put on a child when blood is drawn before a transfusion. On the band is a one-of-a-kind number. No other child has the same number. This number also goes on the tubes of blood that are drawn. Your child, the blood sample and the units of blood will all be matched up with the same number to make sure the right blood is given to your child.

Why does my child need the band?

Your child's doctor ordered a blood test. This is done to help so that if your child needs a transfusion, the blood your child gets matches their blood. The blood bank band helps to identify your child in case a blood transfusion is needed.

Important information

- **Your child must wear the blood bank band until there is no chance of a transfusion.** Some children who get blood during clinic visits need to keep the blood bank band on even when they are at home.
- Ask your child's doctor or nurse when it is okay to remove the band.
- **The blood bank numbers must be clear.** If the number can't be read, your child will need to have more blood drawn.
- **The blood bank number sticker will fall apart if it gets wet.** Keep the band as dry as you can. Your nurse can show you how to cover the band with a plastic wrap. Press n Seal® from Glad works well. Do this whenever your child takes a shower or bath. For safety reasons, be sure an adult is with younger children when the plastic wrap is in use. Remove the plastic wrap after the child is out of the tub and dried off. Throw it away and use new wrap with each bath or shower.

What happens if the band is removed too soon?

- More blood would need to be drawn before your child could get a blood transfusion.
- Your child may need to wait longer to get their blood.
- Your child's discharge may be delayed.

ALERT: Call your child's doctor, nurse, or clinic if you have any questions or concerns or if your child:

- Is not expected to have a transfusion soon, but has another blood bank sample drawn or has a new blood bank band put on.
- Has blood bank bands removed before your child's doctor or nurse says it is okay.
- Has special health care needs that were not covered by this information.

This sheet was created to help you care for your child or family member. It does not take the place of medical care. Talk with your healthcare provider for diagnosis, treatment and follow-up.