



COMMON KIDNEY FUNCTION TESTS

To help in evaluating your kidney function your doctor will suggest blood work or lab work be done.

Normal values may vary depending upon the laboratory your doctor uses.

You may ask your doctor to provide you with a copy of your blood work.

Below is a brief summary of a few of the more common blood tests you will be asked to have drawn.

- Creatinine
 - Creatinine is a waste product formed by the normal breakdown of muscle cells. Healthy kidneys take creatinine out of the blood and put it into the urine to leave the body. When kidneys are not working well, creatinine builds up in the blood.

- GFR
 - (GFR)--glomerular filtration rate, is a measure of how well your kidneys are filtering wastes from your blood. It is an estimate based on the creatinine in your blood, along with a calculation based on your age, weight, sex and race.

- BUN
 - (BUN)—blood urea nitrogen. Urea is a waste product in the blood caused by the normal breakdown of protein. The kidneys filter the blood to remove urea, which is excreted in the urine.

- Proteinuria
 - Healthy kidneys take wastes out of the blood but leave the protein. Kidneys that are not working properly may fail to do this. At first, only small amounts of albumin, (a blood protein), may leak into the urine (a condition called microalbuminuria). As kidney function worsens, the amount of albumin and other proteins in the urine increases, and the condition is called proteinuria.