ExitCare, LLC
8519 Eagle Point Blvd.,
Suite 105
Lake Elmo, MN 55042

EXITCare®
Patient Education Solutions
www.ExitCare.com

Main Hospital
(800) 694-6669
Emergency Department
(800) 694-6669

EXITCARE® PATIENT INFORMATION

Patient Name:
Attending Caregiver:

CBC, Complete Blood Count

The CBC is used as a broad screening test to check for such disorders as anemia, infection, and many other diseases. It is actually a panel of tests that examines different parts of the blood and includes the following:

- **White blood cell differential** looks at the types of white blood cells present. There are five different types of white blood cells. They all have their own function in protecting us from infection. The differential classifies a person's white blood cells into each type: neutrophils (also known as segs, PMN's, grans), lymphocytes, monocytes, eosinophils, and basophils.
- **Red blood cell (RBC) count** is a count of the actual number of red blood cells per volume of blood. Both increases and decreases can point to abnormal conditions.
- **Hemoglobin** measures the amount of oxygen-carrying protein in the blood.
- **Hematocrit** measures the amount of space red blood cells take up in the blood. It is reported as a percentage.
- The **platelet count** is the number of platelets in a given volume of blood. Both increases and decreases can point to abnormal conditions of excess bleeding or clotting. Mean platelet volume (MPV) is a machine-calculated measurement of the average size of your platelets. New platelets are larger, and an increased MPV occurs when increased numbers of platelets are being produced. MPV gives your doctor information about platelet production in your bone marrow.
- **Mean corpuscular volume (MCV)** is a measurement of the average size of your RBC's. The MCV is elevated when your RBC's are larger than normal (macrocytic), for example in anemia caused by vitamin B12 deficiency. When the MCV is decreased, your RBC's are smaller than normal (microcytic), such as is seen in iron deficiency anemia or thalassemias.
- **Mean corpuscular hemoglobin (MCH)** is a calculation of the amount of oxygen-carrying hemoglobin inside your RBC's. Since macrocytic RBC's are larger than either normal or microcytic RBC's, they would also tend to have higher MCH values.
- **Mean corpuscular hemoglobin concentration (MCHC)** is a calculation of the concentration of hemoglobin inside the RBC's. Decreased MCHC values (hypochromia) are seen in conditions where the hemoglobin is abnormally diluted inside the red cells, such as in iron deficiency anemia and in thalassemia. Increased MCHC values (hyperchromia) are seen in conditions where the hemoglobin is abnormally concentrated inside the red cells, such as in hereditary spherocytosis, a relatively rare congenital disorder.
- **Red cell distribution width (RDW)** is a calculation of the variation in the size of your RBC's. In some anemias, such as pernicious anemia, the amount of variation (anisocytosis) in RBC size (along with variation in shape poikilocytosis) causes an increase in the RDW.

MEANING OF TEST

Your caregiver will go over the test results with you and discuss the importance and meaning of your results, as well as treatment options and the need for additional tests if necessary.

OBTAINING THE TEST RESULTS

It is your responsibility to obtain your test results. Ask the lab or department performing the test when and how you will get your results.

**"Normal" ranges for lab values and other tests may vary among different laboratories and/or hospitals. You should always check with your doctor after having lab work or other tests done to discuss the meaning of your test results and whether or not your values are considered "within normal limits".

Document Released: 1/20/2006 Document Revised: 1/9/2011 Document Reviewed: 11/25/2009