

Please help the health  
of children in your  
community by  
volunteering your  
healthy child to donate  
a small blood sample.

*Thank you for your  
cooperation.*

*We look forward to hearing  
from you soon.*

This project is funded by CIHR  
The study is directed by Dr. Nathalie Lepage.

This project has been approved by  
the Research Ethics Board of the  
Children's Hospital of Eastern  
Ontario.

If you and your child are  
interested in participating  
or would like additional  
information, please  
contact:

CALIPER Study Coordinator:

Telephone Number:  
613-738-3952

Pager:  
613-239-7747



**CALIPER**

*Canadian Laboratory Initiative on  
Paediatric Reference Intervals*

A Public Health Initiative of the  
Children's Hospital of Eastern  
Ontario

## What is CALIPER?

CALIPER is a public health initiative by children hospitals across the country to improve the care of children and adolescents who undergo medical examination and treatment. CALIPER stands for Canadian Laboratory Initiative on Paediatric Reference Interval database. It is a nationwide project to establish what is “normal” (the “reference interval”) when a child is screened for a disease using laboratory tests.

## What is Reference Interval?

Blood test results are always evaluated in relation to the “reference interval” for that test. It is a range of results obtained from testing a group of normal, active healthy people. When someone has a disease or health problem, his or her blood test results may be higher or lower than normal – or “outside of the reference interval”. When a physician sees that a blood test is outside of the reference interval, he or she may order a repeat test to verify the results or additional tests to determine the underlying causes behind the abnormality.

Reference intervals are required for accurate diagnosis and monitoring of children admitted to hospital and are key for their care while in hospital.

## Why the Need for Paediatric Reference intervals?

Children are different from adults; their physiology and development changes throughout childhood until they reach adulthood.

Paediatric specific reference intervals are needed for different ages (from infancy to adulthood as well as for both males and females) because they reflect the differences in organ growth, development and physiologic function at different stages of growth.

## What are we looking for?

CHEO is seeking the help of children and teens of all ages for a reference intervals study. We only need a small blood sample.

## Who can be in the study?

Any healthy child or adolescent between birth and 18 years of age.

## How can you help?

Your participation is voluntary. If you agree to be part of the study, we would like:

- A parent to sign a consent form.
- 7-13 year olds to sign an assent form also.
- one to ten milliliters (about one to two teaspoons) of blood.
- You to answer a few general questions and complete a questionnaire (age, medications, special diets, etc.), which will be included in the sample kit.

## We Respect your Privacy

The results of this study will be published; however, all personal information will remain strictly confidential.