

BOX 52–6 Normal Values of Arterial Blood Gases*

pH	7.35–7.45
PaO ₂	80–100 mm Hg
PaCO ₂	35–45 mm Hg
HCO ₃ ⁻	22–26 mEq/L
Base excess	-2 to +2 mEq/L
O ₂ saturation	95–98%

**Some normal values will vary according to the kind of test carried out in the laboratory. Nurses are advised to use the normal values issued by the agency when interpreting laboratory results.*