

## Routine pregnancy testing before treatment for Females aged 12 years and over

### Why do I have to be tested?

It is very important that we do not carry out any procedure on a young woman who may be pregnant. This is because it may be harmful to either the young woman or her unborn baby. If we know about a pregnancy we may be able to do the procedure in a different way that avoids these risks.

### What happens next?

We will need to ask you some questions. These questions can feel embarrassing so you may want to talk to the nurse in private without your parents being there. You should be offered this option. We will need to ask you if you have started your periods, when was your last one and if there is any possibility that you might be pregnant. This will mean asking you if you have had sex and we have to ask this as some girls begin this sort of relationship with boys earlier than others.

We will then ask you if it is OK for us to test a sample of your urine (wee). For most girls the result will be negative meaning you are not pregnant and the operation or procedure will go ahead.

You may then be asked to give your consent for a pregnancy test. If we do not feel that you fully understand then we may ask your parent/guardian. You will then be asked to provide a sample of urine which will then be tested. If the result is negative you will be told.

If the test is positive which means you are pregnant we will then need to talk further to you about what may need to happen next. It may mean that the procedure will be postponed to another time.

### Do my parents have to know if the test is positive?

Not necessarily. We would encourage you to discuss this with your parents but if you don't want this we have to respect your privacy in both agreeing to the test and giving you the result if we assess you as "competent". This is a legal term which means you understand all of the issues and can make an informed decision. We will then help to support you and give you whatever information you require with regard to the pregnancy and next steps.

### Can I refuse to have the test?

Yes you can but we would want to discuss the reasons why so that we could make the best decisions on how to proceed with your care and keep you safe. If we feel that you may not understand enough about this decision then we may ask your parent. It may mean that your procedure is postponed or delayed.

### Who can I talk to if I want more information?

You can talk to your doctor if you feel comfortable doing this or you could ask to speak to a nurse either at your out patient clinic or when you arrive at the hospital for your procedure.

## Important information

This patient information is for guidance purposes only and is not provided to replace professional clinical advice from a qualified practitioner.

## Further information

If you would like further information on this please go to [www.rcpch.ac.uk](http://www.rcpch.ac.uk) – Pre Procedure Pregnancy Testing for Under 16's, Guidance for Clinicians

## Your comments

We are always interested to hear your views about our leaflets. If you have any comments, please contact the Patient Experience Team – Tel: (01323) 417400 Ext: 5860 or by email at: [esh-tr.patientexperience@nhs.net](mailto:esh-tr.patientexperience@nhs.net)

## Hand hygiene

The trust is committed to maintaining a clean, safe environment. Hand hygiene is very important in controlling infection. Alcohol gel is widely available for staff use and at the entrance of each clinical area for visitors to clean their hands before and after entering.

## Other formats

**If you require any of the Trust leaflets in alternative formats, such as large print or alternative languages, please contact the Equality and Human Rights Department.**

**Tel: (01424) 755255 Ext: 2620**

After reading this information are there any questions you would like to ask? Please list below and ask your nurse or doctor.

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## Reference

The following clinicians have been consulted and agreed this patient information:

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Liz Vaughan, Matron

Paediatric Nursing Team.

Women's and Children's Clinical Unit.

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