

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

### Why is this necessary?

This leaflet explains why all female patients who are 12 years old or above may be required to give a urine sample for pregnancy testing before undergoing a procedure. There is national guidance from both NICE (National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence) and the Royal College of Paediatrics that tells us as a Trust that we must check all young girls and women for pregnancy before undertaking any procedure or operation. Some procedures may be harmful to a pregnant patient and her unborn baby. If we know about a pregnancy there may be a different way to do the test or operation that avoids this risk.

### What Will Happen?

On the day that the young woman comes in for a procedure we will consider if she is able to consent to a pregnancy test herself. If she is not then we will ask someone with parental responsibility to give consent on her behalf. We will then ask her to give a urine sample for testing. We appreciate that this is a sensitive issue and that your daughter may wish to speak in private to a female member of staff.

### Will I be informed of the result?

Not necessarily. If the test is negative the young woman will be informed of this. If the test is positive please help us by understanding that we do have a duty to protect her confidentiality. There are different rules on this and whether you are informed will depend on her level of maturity and ability to fully understand the implications of the result.

**If the test is positive the Consultant or Radiologist will decide whether to proceed with the procedure. Please note that at times procedures may have to be delayed or postponed for a number of other reasons and may not be because the young woman has a positive pregnancy test.**

### If the test is positive what happens next?

The young woman will be offered an opportunity to discuss what to do next in private. We will try to encourage her to allow you to be involved in the decisions but if, in the opinion of the staff involved, she is considered to have capacity to make her own decisions and she does not wish this we will have to respect her decision. The appropriate support will then be provided for her.

### Can either of us refuse the test?

Yes but the procedure may have to be cancelled or delayed. The Doctor or Radiologist will decide whether it will be safe to proceed without the test. You should first discuss your concerns with your Doctor/Radiologist. Alternatively you can contact the PALS team or a senior member of the Women and Children's Team.

### 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 or please ask the doctor or nurse looking after your daughter.

## 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 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:

Kaia Relfe, Services Manager

Liz Vaughan, Matron

Paediatric Nursing Team.

Women's and Children's Clinical Unit.

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Responsible clinician/author: Caroline Stephenson, Practice Educator, Paediatrics.

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