



Routine Pregnancy Testing Before Treatment for young people under 18 years

Young Person's Information

Patient information Leaflet

March 2019

This information leaflet explains why all females, who have started menstruating (started their periods), will be asked to undergo routine pregnancy testing before certain surgical operations or procedures, under a general anaesthetic.

Why do we test?

Some procedures, such as operations/general anaesthetics, carry a risk to unborn babies. The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) and the NHS commissioning board state that we have to check all girls who have started menstruating who are undergoing surgery to see if they are pregnant.

We have to test **all** females (who have started menstruating) even if they tell us that they are not sexually active.

What will happen?

At the pre-operative assessment the nurse will have asked if you have started menstruating (having periods) and discuss the pregnancy testing if required.

If it is an emergency procedure, and you have attended the Emergency Department, the nurses or doctors will discuss pregnancy testing at the time.

Consent

The nurse will also discuss consent (agreeing to the test) with you and your parent/carer.

Refusal of consent

You and/or your parent/carer can refuse the test, but the operation may be delayed or cancelled. The surgeon and/or anaesthetist will be informed if you/your parent/carer refuse, and they will discuss further options with you.

Testing

If you require a test, you will be asked to provide a sample of urine on the morning of the procedure. Sometimes we may need to repeat the test, for example if the sample is insufficient, so do not be alarmed if we ask for a second urine sample.

What happens next?

The result of the pregnancy test will then be discussed with you and/or your parent/carer, and further discussions may need to be undertaken, depending on the results.

Confidentiality

We respect your right to confidentiality. This means that we will not share information about you without you and/or your parent/carer's agreement. Usually anything that is shared with a health care professional, such as a nurse or doctor, will be kept confidential. The only exception to this is if we feel the patient is at risk or another person is at risk. If we need to share any information given to us, we will explain why and discuss this with you and/or your parent/carer.

If you have any questions you can discuss these with the nursing staff, your doctor or anaesthetist.

Useful Further Information/phone numbers:

Northern Sexual Health @The Orange rooms, Ashton Primary Care Centre, 193 Old Street, Ashton-under-Lyne, OL6 7SR - 0161 342 7101

www.thenorthernsexualhealth.co.uk

NHS Live Well Sexual Health Advice www.nhs.uk/live-well/sexual-health/

FPA – www.fpa.org.uk 0845 122 8690

Brook – www.brook.org.uk 0808 802 1234

Childrens Outpatients 0161 922 5025

Childrens unit 0161 922 5252

You can also speak to your GP, School Nurse, Teacher or Social Worker/Support Worker (if you have one)

Reference

New, F (2018) Policy on Pregnancy Testing in Females under the age of 18 on admission to Hospital. TGICFT

RCPCH (2012) Pre-procedure Pregnancy Checking in under 16s: Guidance for Clinicians. Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health.

Great Ormond Street Hospital (2014) Routine pregnancy testing before treatment. GOSH NHS foundation Trust.

In compiling this information leaflet, a number of recognised professional bodies including the Department of Health, NHS Improvement, NHS Choices, have been used.

If you have any questions you want to ask, you can use this space below to remind you

If you have a visual impairment this leaflet can be made available in bigger print or on audiotape. If you require either of these options please contact the Patient Information Centre on 0161 922 5332

