

Pregnancy testing before a procedure

Why does my daughter need a pregnancy test?

Before anesthesia, sedation, certain other medicines, or exposure to radiation, we need to know if a girl is pregnant. Because these can pose a serious risk to pregnancy, we need to know whether or not a patient is pregnant in order to provide the safest care possible. Girls who are at least 12 years old, or younger girls who have started their periods, are screened for pregnancy.

The test is fast and easy, and can be done at your primary care clinic up to seven days prior to the procedure. If not, it will be done at Children's before the scheduled procedure.

How is the test done?

Your daughter will be asked to provide a urine sample for testing. If she is unable to urinate, a blood sample will be used. If a blood sample is needed for other tests, some of the blood can be used for the pregnancy screening.

Very rarely, a false-positive result can occur, and further testing would then be needed.

What can we expect after the test?

The results of this test will be told to your daughter. Your daughter has the right to decide how she will share this information.

If a girl is found to be pregnant, resources will be given to help her make the best decisions for herself.

Questions?

This sheet is not specific to your child but provides general information. If you have any other questions or concerns about the test, please ask the doctor.

For more reading material about this and other health topics, please call or visit the Family Resource Center library, or visit our Web site: www.childrensmn.org.

Children's Hospitals and Clinics of Minnesota
Patient/Family Education
2525 Chicago Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55404
07/09 ©Copyright