



Routine pregnancy testing before treatment

Information for young people
aged 12 – 16 years

Developed by the Pre-Procedural Pregnancy Testing Group,
Tayside Children's Hospital, Dundee

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Tayside Children's Hospital

This leaflet answers your questions about having a routine pregnancy test before your operation/procedure.

Why do I need a pregnancy test before my operation/ procedure?

It is very important to ensure that you are not pregnant before some procedures. These procedures include some x-rays, scans and operations, which could be harmful to an unborn baby.

All women old enough to have children need to have the same pregnancy test before having an operation or procedure. This is supported by the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) and the Patient Safety Agency (NPSA) organisations that give hospitals guidance on the best clinical care.

Although there may only be a very small number of pregnancies in 12 – 16 year olds, we believe that testing everybody is the most effective way of avoiding the risk of harm.

We have to test you even if you tell us you are not sexually active or have not had your first period. It is possible to become pregnant before your first period.

What will happen?

On the day of the operation/procedure we will ask you for a urine sample to test. This will be done by the nurse looking after you.

If the test result is negative ...

...your nurse will explain this to you and will record the result in your notes.

If the test result is positive ...

... your nurse will explain this to you and will record the result in your notes.

- ~ We will support you in your choices.
- ~ Your parents/carer will be informed, only with your consent.
- ~ We will let your surgical team know and they will discuss with you if the operation or procedure should continue or not.
- ~ In emergencies, confirmation of pregnancy should not delay your treatment.

I am sure I am not pregnant. Must I have the test?

Nobody will be made to have the test.

- ~ We would like to discuss the reasons why you don't want tested in order to help us to make the best decisions on how to go on.
- ~ Your procedure may be delayed or cancelled as a result.

If you have any questions about the test you can contact the Surgical Paediatric Nurses in Ward 30 on
01382 633830