How can I help reduce healthcare associated infections?

Infection control is important to the well-being of our patients and for that reason we have infection control procedures in place. Keeping your hands clean is an effective way of preventing the spread of infections. We ask that you, and anyone visiting you, use the hand sanitiser available at the entrance to every ward before coming in to or after leaving the ward. In some situations hands may need to be washed at the sink using soap and water rather than using the hand sanitiser. Staff will let you know if this is the case.

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What happens next?

You will be informed of the results straight away and we can provide you with steroid cream which will help to reduce the redness and itching.

You will then be seen by your consultant to discuss treatment options.

Skin Prick Test for allergic reactions

Patient information leaflet

If you require a translation or an alternative format of this leaflet please call Pals on 01296 316042
Why do I need a skin prick test?

Allergic Rhinitis causes symptoms such as runny nose and sneezing and is caused by air-borne allergens that irritate the lining of the nose.

A skin prick test is one of the tests that an Ear, Nose Throat (ENT) Consultant can request to help diagnose and treat your symptoms.

What will I be tested for?

We test for allergic reactions to common allergy triggers, such as pollens, pet hair and house dust mites.

How long will the test take?

The test takes approximately 10 minutes to perform and the results will be visible 15 minutes later.

Are there any risks?

If you are asthmatic there is a slight risk of becoming wheezy and we advise you bring your inhalers to clinic and keep them with you for 24 hours after the test.

Is there anything I need to do?

If you are taking anti-histamine tablets you need to stop taking them 72 hours before the test, as this can affect the results of the test.

How is a skin prick test done?

The skin prick test is done on the forearm. The skin is marked with a pen to indicate the test sites. A drop of allergen solution is placed on the corresponding mark on the arm.

A sterile lancet is used to prick through the allergen using light pressure. This allows the allergen to penetrate the outer layer of skin and facilitates an allergic response.

What happens next?

You will be asked to sit back in the waiting room to await the results. After 15 minutes you will be called back in to review the results.

If you are allergic to any of the allergens you will have a red, itchy, swollen lump, called a wheal appear on your arm.