

References:

1. Royal College of Paediatrics & Child Health. Pre-procedure Pregnancy Checking in Under 16s: Guidance for Clinicians. November 2012.
2. Department of Health. Reference Guide to Consent for Examination or Treatment (second edition) 2009.

Approvals:

Paediatric Information and Guidelines Group – 3rd October 2019

Paediatric Clinical Governance Group - 8th October 2019

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 main entrance of the hospital and at the entrance to every clinical area before coming in to and after leaving the clinical area or hospital. 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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Pregnancy Testing in Girls Under 16

Information for Girls and Parents

If you require a translation or alternative format of this leaflet please call PALS on 01296 316042

Safe & compassionate care,

every time

Introduction

When you attend hospital we have to ask you lots of questions about your health, any medicines you might be taking and any allergies you have. This is so we can make sure that you will be safe while in hospital. We will also need to check you are not pregnant if you need an operation and we may also need to check you are not pregnant before you have an x-ray or scan.

We understand that many teenage girls are not having sex, so it is not possible for them to be pregnant. We do not know who is and who isn't sexually active, so to ensure we care for you safely, we ask everyone aged 12 and over if it is possible they might be pregnant.

After becoming pregnant

Very soon after becoming pregnant (when the period may only be a week or two late) there are many changes happening within the body. How drugs affect the body, and how the body deals with drugs can be different during pregnancy. Some drugs that may be used during anaesthesia or scans may damage an unborn baby. There is also a chance of miscarriage (losing the baby) if a woman has an operation or investigation during early pregnancy.

Pregnancy test

To check about pregnancy we will need to ask if you have started your periods and if it is okay for us to test a sample of your urine. Your parent may be asked to provide consent for the test but if you are assessed as mature enough to make this choice yourself you may be asked to provide consent.

While we encourage girls to share information with their parents, your confidentiality will always be respected and we will not share information you give us without your consent unless we believe this would compromise your safety.

For most young girls the test will be negative which shows that they are not pregnant and the procedure can go ahead as planned.

For a small number of young girls the test may be positive and we would then have to think very carefully about the best way to proceed and to make sure the right care was organised to help you.

You have the right to refuse the pregnancy test but we would want to discuss the reasons why, in order to help us to make the best decisions on how to proceed with your care and keep you safe.

We are aware of how stressful and embarrassing hospital can be and hope you appreciate the reasons why we request consent to carry out this test.

Please ask a nurse or doctor to explain anything that you are not clear about, they will be happy to help, and you can ask them to talk in private if you wish.