

Pregnancy Testing

Routine screening of female patients before a procedure

Who will be tested?	Females 12 years and older are required to provide a urine sample for pregnancy screening before receiving surgery, anesthesia, or certain radiology procedures.
Is testing necessary?	Pregnancy testing is done to prevent harm to a developing pregnancy. If the patient is pregnant, it may not be safe to move forward with the planned procedure.
When will the test be done?	The test will be done the day of the procedure unless the patient has already been tested within the past 7 days.
How is the test done?	<p>The patient will be asked to provide a urine sample for testing. If she is unable to provide urine, a blood sample will be taken.</p> <p>Very rarely, a false-positive test can occur. If this should happen, more testing may be needed.</p>
Who will get the test results?	The patient will be notified if the test is positive. By law, she must give her permission in order for the hospital to share the test results with a parent or guardian. A social worker will be available to provide information and support.
What happens if the test is positive?	If the test is positive, our doctors will determine if the procedure should be done by weighing the risk of harm to the patient and pregnancy.
What if I don't want her to be tested?	Please discuss your concerns with your child's doctor first. They can discuss your options with you, including your right to refuse the test and the impacts on care if you do so.
Who pays for the cost of testing?	This test will be billed in the same way that any other lab charges for your daughter's procedure will be billed.
Who should I contact with questions?	Please talk to your child's doctor if you have any questions or concerns about pregnancy testing.

To Learn More

- Ask your child's healthcare provider
- seattlechildrens.org

Free Interpreter Services

- In the hospital, ask your nurse.
- From outside the hospital, call the toll-free Family Interpreting Line, 1-866-583-1527. Tell the interpreter the name or extension you need.



Seattle Children's offers interpreter services for Deaf, hard of hearing or non-English speaking patients, family members and legal representatives free of charge. Seattle Children's will make this information available in alternate formats upon request. Call the Family Resource Center at 206-987-2201. This handout has been reviewed by clinical staff at Seattle Children's. However, your child's needs are unique. Before you act or rely upon this information, please talk with your child's healthcare provider.

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