

Routine Pregnancy Testing Before Treatment

Some Procedures and anesthetic medications carry a risk to the developing fetus or pregnant patients. At the Alberta Children's Hospital all young women aged 12 years and older who are having procedures under anesthesia will be asked to provide a urine sample to test for pregnancy. If your child is younger than 12 and has started their period, they will also be asked to provide a urine sample for pregnancy testing. This test will be completed even if they tell us they are not sexually active or have not yet had their first period. It is possible to get pregnant before it is evident that they have started their period.

What Will Happen?

If you will be 12 or older on the day that you are due to come for surgery, or you are under 12 and have already started menstruating, a nurse will ask you for a sample of urine to test on that day. The testing will be completed in private and the result will be available later that day.

What happens then?

If the result is negative (that is you are not pregnant) we will tell you and record it discreetly in your health care record. If you would like to tell someone the result, we can help you. If you do not want us to share this result we won't.

If the result is positive (that is you are pregnant) we will support you whatever your age. In all cases the medical or surgical team will be made aware of the result. Your medical or surgical team will decide if your procedure can still go ahead or whether it needs to be delayed. The results will be discreetly recorded in your health record.

If you would like to tell someone about the result, we can help you. The Alberta Children's Hospital Social Work Service can provide support. If you do not want to share the result, we won't. The only exception to this is if we think the health, safety or welfare of you or another person is at risk. If we need to share information with someone else we will explain to you why we need to do this and we will support you to talk about it.

Can I refuse to be tested?

Yes, you can refuse but your medical or surgical team will have to be informed if you refuse to be tested. There would need to be a discussion with your team about whether your procedure can go ahead without a test.

Who can I talk to if I have any questions?

- Parents or Caregivers
- Close, trusted relatives or friends
- Your doctor
- Your teacher

Any profession that you ask questions of will respect your right to confidentiality. Confidentiality means we will not share information about you without your agreement, unless we think your or someone else's health and safety are at risk