

INFORMATION FOR PATIENTS, PARENTS, GUARDIANS AND CARERS

Pregnancy testing before surgery in children



When you come into hospital for any x-ray based tests, operation or procedures where certain medicines are given, you will be asked to provide a sample of urine to be tested for pregnancy.

This is a nationwide recommendation for all females of any age who are of child bearing potential (e.g. 12 years and over OR earlier if have started their periods). We ask to perform the test on all females whether the female is sexually active or not.

We believe that, although there are a very small number of pregnancies in this age group, testing all patients is the most effective way of avoiding the risk of harm. With your consent, or that of an adult with parental responsibility, we can then proceed to fully manage the health problem you are admitted to hospital with in the safest possible manner. We are aware of how stressful any admission can be for patients and their relatives, and hope you recognise the reasons for requesting a pregnancy test in this way.

You will be updated with the result of the pregnancy test. If a pregnancy test is unexpectedly positive, this will be communicated with the young person and family in an appropriate way. Other actions and support may be necessary which will be discussed with you at the time. If a pregnancy test is declined, we would then need to discuss the safest way of proceeding with your care.

Your understanding is greatly appreciated.

Further sources of information

NHS Choices: www.nhs.uk/conditions

Our website: www.sfh-tr.nhs.uk

Patient Experience Team (PET)

PET is available to help with any of your compliments, concerns or complaints, and will ensure a prompt and efficient service.

King's Mill Hospital: 01623 672222

Newark Hospital: 01636 685692

Email: sfh-tr.PET@nhs.net

If you would like this information in an alternative format, for example large print or easy read, or if you need help with communicating with us, for example because you use British Sign Language, please let us know. You can call the Patient Experience Team on 01623 672222 or email sfh-tr.PET@nhs.net.

This document is intended for information purposes only and should not replace advice that your relevant health professional would give you. External websites may be referred to in specific cases. Any external websites are provided for your information and convenience. We cannot accept responsibility for the information found on them. If you require a full list of references for this leaflet (if relevant) please email sfh-tr.patientinformation@nhs.net or telephone 01623 622515, extension 6927.

To be completed by the Communications office
Leaflet code: PIL202401-04-PPT
Created: September 2018/ Revised: January 2024/ Review Date: January 2026