

# Advice Leaflet for Children Having Blood Tests

**Children's Services  
Women and Children's Services Group  
At Scunthorpe General Hospital**

This leaflet has been designed to give you important information about your condition / procedure, and to answer some common queries that you may have.



## Information for patients and visitors

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### Your GP wants your child to have a blood test

Children **over 10 years of age** have their blood tests taken at the phlebotomy service A Floor, Cliff Garden's entrance Scunthorpe General Hospital:

- Clinics are held on a Wednesday afternoon 13.30 – 16.30hrs
- To book an appointment please telephone (01724) 290005 between Monday to Friday 9.30 – 16.00hrs

Children **under 10 years of age** need to make an appointment either in:

- Children's Outpatient Clinic on a Monday 9.30 – 16.00hrs this is situated within the Outpatients Department, A floor, Church Lane entrance Blood clinic also occurs on Fridays between 09:30 to 16:00hours
- To book an appointment please telephone: (01724) 387979

To book an appointment please telephone the above number Monday to Friday 8.30am – 16.30 pm.

Inform the staff that you wish to make an appointment for the Children's Blood Test clinic.

Please note there may be times when nursing staff are unavailable to answer your call if they are busy. Please try again later.

Should you be unable to attend the appointment please inform the Clinic on the above number as soon as possible so that another appointment can be arranged.

**Make a note of the time you have booked in the space provided here:**

<b>Where:</b>
<b>Date:</b>
<b>Time:</b>

This leaflet goes on to explain what will happen when you and your child attend the clinic.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact the clinic or ask on the day your child comes for his/her test.

**There may be no staff available to look after your other children if possible please make alternative childcare arrangements.**

### Introduction

It is important that your child is prepared for their blood test as they may have questions, fears and anxieties regarding the procedure - this leaflet will help you explain what will happen during their short visit to the blood clinic.

### On Arrival

On arrival please report to the receptionist on Disney ward or the nurse in Children's outpatients. If your child is over 10 please report to Pathology Reception on 'A' floor outpatient department. A nurse will then complete a short form in order to check your child's details with you and ensure the blood form is completed correctly. Please do not hesitate to ask any questions, however trivial you may think they are. The parents needs to bring their child's blood form as if they do not bring the form their child's bloods will not be done that day and a new appointment will have to be made.



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# Information for patients and visitors

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## How Is A Blood Test Done?

- Before your child has his/her blood test we can either spray with a numbing spray this numbs the skin, is very short acting and the bloods will be taken immediately after the child's skin has been sprayed

Or

- We can put some local anaesthetic cream ("magic cream") on the back of both hands and sometimes on the inside of the elbows. This will be covered by a transparent plaster. The cream numbs the skin and vein, ready for when the needle is put in - it can take up to an hour to work so you may take your child for a walk around the hospital, or take your child for a drink within the hospital, or your child can stay and play in the Play area. If local anaesthetic is requested we encourage them to come one hour before their allocated time slot so the cream can be applied
- Your child will be introduced to the nurse and a nursery nurse or health care assistant before the blood test is done. These people are specially trained in how to play with children in hospital and how to help those having tests and investigations. They will help your child play with things like, noisy books and toys, during the blood test in order to help distract him/her away from the procedure and help take away any feelings of discomfort, anxiety and fear they may have
- The "magic cream" will be wiped away and your child will be ready for their blood test. A nurse will squeeze your child's arm or wrist - this makes the vein

fill up with blood and makes it easier for the blood sample to be taken

- A needle is then inserted into the vein - the needle is then connected to a syringe and the blood taken out
- When the required amount of blood is taken, the needle is removed. The small wound is pressed on with cotton wool for a few minutes to stop the bleeding and prevent bruising. A sticky plaster is then put on
- While the nurse puts the blood into bottles, your child will be encouraged to choose a bravery certificate and sticker to help them feel they have achieved the goal of having blood taken

## Different Blood Samples

Blood can be tested for many different things. Your GP will write on the form which tests they want us to take. Different blood bottles are used for different tests - this is why you may see your blood added to bottles of different sizes and colours.

## Benefits of Having A Blood Test

The results of the blood test & possibly other tests may help your GP establish what is making your child unwell. Without these tests this process may take longer.

## Any Complications?

- Sometimes a bruise develops where the needle was put in. This is much less likely to happen if you press over the site with cotton wool for a few minutes, keeping your child's arm straight
- As with any wound, an infection may develop where the needle was put in -



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this is very unlikely but you must see your GP if the site becomes red or sore

- Rarely, some people feel faint during a blood test. Your child (or yourself) will be encouraged to lie down if this happens to prevent fainting
- Occasionally it can be difficult to find a vein from which to take the blood and it may take more than one attempt to obtain a sample

### Alternatives

There is currently no alternative method available to obtain a blood test from your child.

### Results

Unless you are told differently by your GP, the results from your child's blood test will go back to him/her - this may take up to one week but may be longer depending on the reason the blood test is being performed. He/she should contact you once the results are available.

### Concerns and Queries

If you have any concerns / queries about any of the services offered by the Trust, in the first instance, please speak to the person providing your care.

#### For Diana, Princess of Wales Hospital

Alternatively you can contact the Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) on (01472) 875403 or at the PALS office which is situated near the main entrance.

#### For Scunthorpe General Hospital

Alternatively you can contact the Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) on (01724) 290132 or at the PALS office which is situated on C Floor.

Alternatively you can email:

[nlg-tr.PALS@nhs.net](mailto:nlg-tr.PALS@nhs.net)

**Northern Lincolnshire and Goole NHS Foundation Trust**

**Diana Princess of Wales Hospital  
Scarcho Road  
Grimsby  
01472 874111**

**Scunthorpe General Hospital  
Cliff Gardens  
Scunthorpe  
01724 282282**

**Goole & District Hospital  
Woodland Avenue  
Goole  
01405 720720**

[www.nlg.nhs.uk](http://www.nlg.nhs.uk)

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