

My Child Needs a Blood Test Advice for Parents & Carers

**Children's Services
Women & Children's Services
North East Lincolnshire**

**This leaflet has been designed to
give you important information
about your child's blood test, and
to answer some common queries
that you may have.**

Information for parents and carers

Introduction

Your G.P wants your child to have a blood test. We are able to do this in 3 locations Raj Medical Practice, Pilgrim Community Clinic Immingham and occasionally for some special test the Children's Outpatient clinic.

To book an appointment please telephone 03033 303655 on a Monday to Friday between 08.30-17.00 hrs.

Inform the staff that you wish to make an appointment for the Children's Blood Test Clinic, they will then offer you a date and time. Should you be unable to attend the appointment on that day, please telephone the above number as soon as possible so that another appointment can be arranged.

Your G.P will provide you with an anaesthetic cream (numbing cream) for the procedure.

How does the cream work

This cream is a numbing cream that helps reduce pain during a needle procedure like a blood test. When applied correctly the cream can reduce the amount of pain or discomfort felt by your child during the procedure. The cream is applied to the skin before the procedure and needs to be in place for at least 30-40 minutes to work the best. The cream can be left on up to 120 minutes.

Possible side effects of the cream:

- Temporary whitening of skin is normal
- Itching, redness, or a rash may occur. If this happens remove the cream and contact your G.P.

How do I prepare my child?

Explain the cream will be put on their skin and that it will be covered up by a plaster called Tegaderm. Just before the procedure, the covering is removed and the cream is wiped off. The cream keeps working for up to 60 minutes after it is wiped off but the child might still feel something, such as pressure on the site.

Where to apply anaesthetic cream



Together 
we care, we respect, we deliver

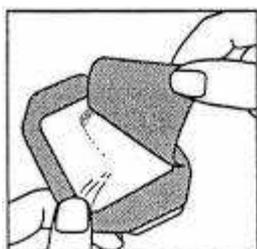
Information for parents and carers



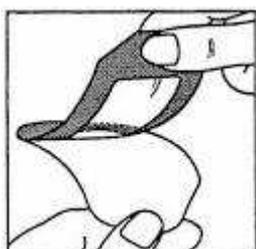
Apply the cream 30-40 minutes before the test. **Do not apply to sites where there are broken areas / cuts on the skin.**

To place the cream, follow these steps:

1. Use the point on the top of the cap to break the seal inside the tube
2. Put on the correct amount of cream to each of the four sites. **Do not put on more than instructed**
 - a) **Infants over 1 month but under 3 months – a 1 pence size spot of cream**
 - b) **Infants over 3 months but less than 1 year- a 2 pence size spot of cream**
 - c) **Children over 1 year of age – a 2 pence size spot of cream**
3. Cover each spot with Tegaderm to keep the cream in place and prevent your child from getting it into their mouth or eyes. Remove the centre cut out piece from the Tegaderm, leaving the paper frame on

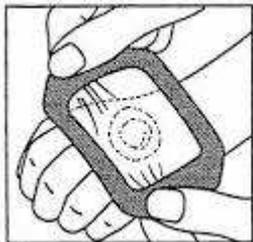


4. Peel the backing paper off



Information for parents and carers

5. Holding onto the frame of the Tegaderm place sticky side down over the cream



6. Smooth down the edges of the Tegaderm, remove the frame



Consent

If your child is attending for their blood test accompanied by someone other than a parent, please can you arrange for a letter to accompany your child, stating your consent for your child's blood sample to be taken and complete with your full name, signature and date.

On arrival to the blood clinic:

On arrival please report to the receptionist. A nurse will then check your child's details with you and ensure the blood form is completed correctly. The nurse will then explain to you and child how the procedure will be done and you will be given time to ask questions or voice any concerns.

Benefits of having a blood test:

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

Possible complications:

- Sometimes a small bruise develops where the needle has entered the skin
- With any wound, an infection may develop where the needle has entered the skin, this is very unlikely but you must see your G.P if the site becomes red or sore
- Occasionally, some children feel faint during a blood test. Your child will be encouraged to lie down if this happens to prevent fainting

Information for parents and carers

Additional Information

If you have any concerns please do not hesitate to speak to either a member of nursing or medical staff.

Alternatively you could seek advice from your child's GP or NHS Direct on 111.

References

<http://www.medicines.org.uk/ema/medicine/24217>

Dougherty L, Lister S (2010) Royal Marsden Hospital Manual of Clinical Nursing Procedures 8th Edition, Wiley-Blackwell London.

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 – 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 – 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

Confidentiality and How We Use Data

Personal information on NHS patients is collected and recorded within paper and electronic formats primarily to support high quality care that is safe and effective. To do this, information is also used to support quality improvement activities, investigate any concerns you may raise as well as to support and understand NHS performance. All NHS staff have a legal duty to keep information about you confidential.

Information will only ever be shared with people who have a genuine need for it. Other circumstances where information may be shared include administrative teams to plan future care needed, commissioners of Trust services, other NHS or social care providers and in some cases voluntary sector providers.

Zero Tolerance - Violent, Threatening and Abusive Behaviour

The Trust and its staff are committed to providing high quality care to patients within the department. However, we wish to advise all patients / visitors that the following inappropriate behaviour will not be tolerated:

- Swearing
- Threatening / abusive behaviour
- Verbal / physical abuse



Information for parents and carers

The Trust reserves the right to withdraw from treating patients who are threatening / abusive / violent and ensuring the removal of those persons from the premises.

All acts of criminal violence and aggression will be notified to the Police immediately.

Risk Management Strategy

The Trust welcomes comments and suggestions from patients and visitors that could help to reduce risk.

Perhaps you have experienced something whilst in hospital, whilst attending as an outpatient or as a visitor and you felt at risk.

Please tell a member of staff on the ward or in the department you are attending / visiting.

Moving & Handling

The Trust operates a Minimal Lifting Policy, which in essence means patients are only ever lifted by nursing staff in an emergency situation.

Patients are always encouraged to help themselves as much as possible when mobilising, and if unable to do so, equipment may be used to assist in their safe transfer.

If you have any questions regarding moving and handling of patients within the Trust, please speak to a member of staff in the ward or department you are visiting.

Northern Lincolnshire and Goole NHS Foundation Trust

Diana Princess of Wales Hospital

Scartho Road

Grimsby

DN33 2BA

01472 874111

Scunthorpe General Hospital

Cliff Gardens

Scunthorpe

DN15 7BH

01724 282282

Goole & District Hospital

Woodland Avenue

Goole

DN14 6RX

01405 720720

www.nlg.nhs.uk

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