

Further Information

1. Routine preoperative tests for elective surgery.
<https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng45/chapter/Recommendations>
2. RCPCH: Pre-procedure Pregnancy Checking for Under-16s. <http://www.rcpch.ac.uk/pregnancychecks>
3. Checking Pregnancy Before Surgery: Patient Safety.
<http://www.nrls.npsa.nhs.uk/resources/?EntryId45=73838>

How can I help reduce healthcare associated infections?

Infection control is important to the well-being of our patients and for that reason we have infection control procedures in place. Keeping your hands clean is an effective way of preventing the spread of infections. We ask that you, and anyone visiting you, use the hand sanitiser available at the entrance to every ward before coming in to or after leaving the ward. In some situations hands may need to be washed at the sink using soap and water rather than using the hand sanitiser. Staff will let you know if this is the case.

www.buckshealthcare.nhs.uk

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Pregnancy testing before surgery

A guide for adolescents and young adults

Patient information leaflet

If you require a translation or an alternative format of this leaflet please call PALS on 01296 316042

Safe & compassionate care,

every time

Why am I being asked if I am pregnant?

We know that adolescents do get pregnant.

Research shows that operating on people who are pregnant may cause harm to the unborn baby, but can also cause harm to the pregnant woman. We want to keep you as safe as possible whilst in hospital.

But what if I'm not having sex?

Many adolescents are not sexually active, and can not be pregnant.

However, we do not know who is and who is not having sex, and feel it is intrusive and unnecessary to ask you these types of questions on the day of your surgery.

We make no personal judgements about you – we test everyone.

Who needs a pregnancy test before surgery and what is required?

All adolescents and women who are within the years where they could have a baby (that is between 12 and 55 years of age) require a pregnancy test.

Before the surgery, with your permission, we will test a sample of urine. It only takes a couple of minutes and will not delay your surgery.

What if I think I am pregnant?

It is very important that you let one of the nurses or doctors know before your operation. This is treated with confidence – that is we will always keep anything you tell us completely private, unless we are very worried about your safety.

You will need to provide a urine sample for testing, and if this was positive, a blood test may be sent to the laboratory.

Whilst very reliable, in very early pregnancy, there is a very small chance you may still be pregnant even with a negative urine pregnancy test. In this situation, a doctor will talk with you about the risks and benefits of proceeding with the planned operation.

What if I do not want to be tested?

We would never force you to have a test that you did not want to have, as long as you understand that risks of not having the testing.

Without a negative test on the day of surgery, it is possible that planned surgery may need to be delayed, unless surgery is urgent.