

Having a blood test - Children's Community Nursing Team

An information guide



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This information leaflet explains the process involved in your child having a blood test.

Your specialist nurse or GP will explain why your child needs a blood test. If you are unsure please ask.

- The GP will give you the blood form that you need to bring to the appointment with you.
- Most children choose to have local analgesia 'magic cream' which helps take away some of the pain. This is called Ametop or Emla and is applied 40 minutes to one hour before the bloods are taken. Your GP should give you a leaflet explaining how to apply the cream and a prescription to get the cream from the pharmacist.
- Sometimes children's veins are difficult to find and more than one attempt is needed. Very occasionally it is not possible to obtain bloods. In this case you may be referred to hospital.
- Sometimes children can be left with a bruise around the area where the blood has been taken.
- Results of blood tests will be sent to your GP and should be ready within one week.
- There may be occasions when blood tests are not absolutely necessary – please discuss this with the nurse if you have any queries.



Key points for your child to read or for you to explain:

- It is important that the nurse takes the blood test.
- You can have 'magic cream' to help take the pain away.
- We cover the cream with a see through plaster. The skin should feel different when the cream is ready/has worked.
- The nurse will take the cream off gently and feel your hand/arm to see which is better to use for your blood test. If you look carefully on the back of your hand/arm you may see some blue lines, these are your veins.
- A nurse will gently squeeze your arm to make the blood test easier, or she may use an elastic belt to squeeze your arm, this is called a tourniquet.
- The equipment we use for the blood test is called a butterfly and syringe. The nurse will use this to take your blood.
- When there is enough blood in the syringe the butterfly is taken out. The blood is then sent to be tested. You can have a plaster on and a special sticker if you wish.



Contact us

Children's Community Nursing Team,
Oldham Integrated Care Centre,
New Radcliffe Street,
Oldham,
OL1 1NL

Telephone: 0161 621 3870

You will receive an appointment by letter.



If English is not your first language and you need help, please contact the Interpretation and Translation Service

Jeśli angielski nie jest twoim pierwszym językiem i potrzebujesz pomocy, skontaktuj się z działem tłumaczeń ustnych i pisemnych

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Dacă engleza nu este prima ta limbă și ai nevoie de ajutor, te rugăm să contactezi Serviciul de interpretare și traducere

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☎ : 0161 627 8770

@ : interpretation@pat.nhs.uk

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For general enquiries please contact the Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) on 0161 604 5897


For enquiries regarding clinic appointments, clinical care and treatment please contact 0161 624 0420 and the Switchboard Operator will put you through to the correct department / service

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