



Routine Pregnancy Screening Before a Radiology Imaging Study

Your doctor has ordered an imaging study for your child. This procedure can give them more information to help with diagnosis or to figure out the right treatment plan. To prepare for this procedure, we may ask your child to provide a urine (pee) sample for pregnancy screening (testing).

Why is testing necessary?

On average, girls and children with uteruses are starting to have their periods at younger ages. C.S. Mott Children's Hospital policy requires pregnancy screening for anyone who is able to become pregnant to help prevent or reduce radiation exposure to unborn babies. We do pregnancy screening before imaging studies to prevent harm to any developing pregnancy.

Who will be tested?

Anyone with a uterus who may become pregnant and who is 10 years or older is required to have a pregnancy screening before certain imaging studies.

When will the test be done?

Your child can do the test any time within 28 days before the imaging study. They can do this in your doctor's office, or your doctor may help you find a laboratory to provide the screening.

How is the test done?

We will ask your child to provide a urine sample (by peeing into a container) for testing. If they're unable to provide urine, we can take a blood sample instead.

Who will get the results?

If the test is positive (meaning the test shows that they are pregnant), a doctor will tell your child. By law, we are then required to share the pregnancy screening results for a child younger than 18 years old with their parent or legal guardian.

Who pays for the cost of pregnancy screening?

We will bill the pregnancy screening in the same way as any other lab charges for the imaging study. This cost goes to you and any insurance you have. Contact your insurance company for details on their coverage of the pregnancy screening.

Are there exceptions to this policy?

If it is physically impossible for your child to get pregnant, they do not have to get a pregnancy screening. This would include patients who were born without a uterus or ovaries, or who had them surgically removed. In very rare cases, we may not require the test for a patient who is physically or mentally unable to cooperate, or in emergencies where delaying the imaging procedure might risk the life of the patient. We cannot remove the pregnancy screening requirement based only on the parent or guardian's request.

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