



Child Protection Medical – Tests

Information for Parents

As explained in the *Child Protection Medical - Information for Parents* leaflet, your child may need to have some medical tests. This leaflet is to help you to understand what they involve.

What tests will my child have and why?

(Note to the doctor: Please tick as appropriate)

This depends on the age of your child, the reason they need to be seen, and what is found on examination.

Blood tests

We do blood tests to look for any medical reason for your child's injury or problems. Local anaesthetic cream or spray may be used to reduce any discomfort or distress.

Eye tests

If your child is under 2 years old, they may need an eye examination by a specialist (ophthalmologist) using special equipment. This is to look for any relevant findings at the back of the eye. Your child may need eye drops to help the doctor to see the back of the eye more clearly. This examination should not be painful, however it does require your child to stay still and they might have to be held firmly for the test to be carried out.

Medical photography

If your child has any visible marks or bruising medical photographs may be taken which will be kept as part of their health record.

CT head

If there is a concern that your child may have a head injury, they will need to have a scan of their head. This scan is painless and usually takes about 5 minutes to perform. It uses x-rays and therefore your child will be exposed to a small amount of radiation. We are all exposed to a small amount of radiation on a daily basis. However high doses of radiation, or prolonged or repeated exposure to radiation, can be dangerous. The radiation risk from a single CT scan is small and it is essential that any head injuries are identified and treated appropriately.

Skeletal Survey

If your child is under 2 years old, or if they are older and have any significant or concerning physical injuries, they may need a skeletal survey. This is a series of x-rays of the bones looking for breaks (also known as fractures). It takes a minimum of 30 minutes to complete. This examination should not be painful, however your child might have to be held firmly in position for the test to be carried out. The skeletal survey happens in two stages, with a second series of x-rays taking place 10 to 14 days after the first.

Other scans *Please specify*

Other scans might be necessary, for example an MRI. The doctor will discuss these with you first.

It may take a few days to complete all the tests and get all the results. Any delays will be explained to you. If your child is found to have any healthcare needs, the doctor will advise you on what should happen next.

Flesch Kincaid Grade level 7.8

Flesch Reading Ease 68.1