

What should I tell my child?

It is best to tell your child what is going to happen. Give a short explanation, that is appropriate for their age and development.

When will I know the results?

The doctor who has referred your child will receive the results, they will be able to discuss the results with you. Some results may be available the same day, some take about a week, and others longer – sometimes as long as two months.

Please do not call the unit for results as the staff will not be able to give them to you.

Please ask if you need this leaflet in an alternative format.

Issued by:
East Suffolk and North Essex NHS Foundation Trust
Ipswich Hospital, Heath Road, Ipswich IP4 5PD
www.esneft.nhs.uk



Your child's blood test

***Children's Investigations Unit
Ipswich Hospital***

Tel: 01473 702589

***Paediatric Assessment Unit
Ipswich Hospital***

Tel: 01473 702198

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Where do I need to go?

If your child is under 11 years old:

You need to book an appointment at the **Children's Phlebotomy Clinic**.

You can do this by calling **01473 702589** Monday, Tuesday and Friday between 9.30 am and 4.30 pm.

If your child is aged 11–16 years old:

Book an appointment online at www.swiftqueue.co.uk – click the green 'Book an appointment' button then enter the location as 'Ipswich. Please choose 'Ipswich Hospital OPD' or 'Landseer Road Surgery Childrens Bloods' on the next screen.

Please note the child's details must be entered when booking online – not the adult accompanying them.

The address of Landseer Road Children's Phlebotomy Clinic is 476–478, Landseer Road Ipswich IP3 9LU.

If your child is over five years old but has additional needs (such as Autistic Spectrum Disorder), it may help to telephone and speak to a nurse on **01473 702589** to discuss the best place for your child to have their blood test done and make any additional arrangements that may be required.

Please avoid bringing other children or more than one other adult with you, as we cannot be responsible for other children and there is limited space in our treatment areas.

What happens when my child has their blood test?

Your nurse or phlebotomist will invite your child into the treatment room or area. Your child will be asked to sit or lie on the treatment couch, sit on the chair or sit on your lap. The nurse or phlebotomist will advise you the best way to position your child.

The nurse or phlebotomist will examine your child's hands and arms to find a suitable vein from which to take blood. Occasionally we use another site, such as the feet.

If your child is over a year old, we will offer ethyl chloride 'cold spray' which makes the area numb. If your child is under six months old, they may be offered some oral sucrose drops (sugar drops) which makes the blood test less painful.

In addition to the 'cold spray' or sucrose drops, it can help to use distraction measures such as books, bubbles and small toys.

A nurse may help your child to hold their arm still, put a tourniquet (a tight band) around your child's arm and apply the 'cold spray' (if being used).

The needle is then put through the skin into the vein and remains in place until all the blood samples have been collected. The needle is then removed and gauze is pressed down on the skin to stop the bleeding. A plaster may then applied to the area.

While we try our best to get all requires samples first time, it may sometimes be necessary to have more than one attempt.