

Remember: Ask your nurse if you are unsure about anything about your child's care.

Additional instructions

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Information for parents / guardians of a child undergoing Patch Testing



Dermatology Department

Tel: (01) 4096100 (*main switch*) and ask for Bleep **322** or Bleep **496**

Patch testing

- Is a procedure to find out what substances/allergens cause a skin reaction.
- When undergoing a patch test you will need to attend the dermatology centre **three times** in one week.

Monday

- Allergens on adhesive tape (patches) will be applied to your child's back. Markings will be made with a skin marker identifying them. They are secured in place

Wednesday

- The allergens are removed and markings made again on the skin. The doctor will then view your child's back and a provisional reading is performed. On this particular day, the procedure may take more time.

Friday

- Final reading will be performed by the doctor and the results will be explained.

Appointments

Are arranged by the dermatology Nurse specialist who will contact you to arrange same. If skin is flared prior to the appointment time please contact the dermatology team as the test may need to be rescheduled.

General advice:

- Strong topical steroids to your child's back or upper arms should be avoided 2 days prior to this procedure. If you feel this is a problem, contact the department. Continue using moisturisers as required to these areas.
- Topical creams/ointments/lotions can be used during patch testing as long as they are not applied to patch testing area.
- The allergens may feel uncomfortable but this procedure does not usually cause any pain.
- In the event that your child experiences very a severe local irritation from an allergen please contact the dermatology department for advice.
- Keep the patch test area dry for the entire week.
- **Your child should not take a bath or shower until the testing period is over. You may sponge bath all areas avoiding the patch test site.**
- **Avoid excessive heat; excessive or strenuous exercise should be avoided as perspiring may loosen the patches.**

- If the patches loosen contact the department for advice. Extra tape will be supplied to you to help secure patches.

Do not hesitate to contact the department if you have any problems, ring the nurse specialist on 4096100 Bleep 322 or bleep 496 or, if out of office hours, contact your GP.

Please check into reception at medical tower 2

Appointments
