



SpeakUp™

Having a Safe Medical or Laboratory Test

Your child's health and safety are important to us. You can make a difference in your child's care by asking questions and being actively involved.

What are medical and laboratory tests?

Medical tests include X-rays, MRIs, and CT scans. Lab tests include blood tests and urine samples.

What should you ask about medical and lab tests?

Ask why your child needs a test. Find out which test will be done and what your child should be prepared for during the test. Find out if you can be with your child during the test. Ask if your child can eat or drink before the test.

Are there any risks with medical or lab tests?

X-rays and CT scans use radiation. Ask how they will make sure your child gets the right amount of radiation for their size. MRIs use strong magnets. Metal can be pulled into the MRI machine and injure the patient. Make sure to remove all metal, like jewelry and hair clips. If there are any metal objects you are not sure about, ask the staff. Also ask what has been done to make sure your child is safe during the test.

What should you do if your child is having a blood test or other lab test?

Ask to see the label on the container that your child's sample is put into. The label should have your child's name and birth date or another piece of information. See that the container is immediately sealed.

What should you do if your child is having an X-ray, MRI, or CT scan?

Ask if your child will be given a contrast agent. This is a liquid that makes organs and blood vessels easy to see on X-rays and other tests. Tell your care provider if your child has had problems with contrast agents before. Immediately alert your care provider if your child begins to itch or have trouble breathing after getting a contrast agent.

Contact your child's care provider if you have any questions or concerns.

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