

# Metanephrine Measurement Test

## Background

This test is used when it is suspected or known that a child is at risk of a pheochromocytoma. This is a very rare tumour of the inner part of the adrenal gland (medulla) or sympathetic nerve cell chain.

## Key points

Please ensure your child:

- Fasts for 4-6 hours (or such time as advised by their doctor) before the test.
- It is fine for them to drink water.
- Remains fasting until the end of the test.

The test will be arranged for first thing in the morning.

If your child is unwell (fever, vomiting or diarrhoea), please phone the Day Treatment Unit on 6456 3772 to cancel and rebook .

## Arrival

Please go to the Day Treatment Unit. It is on the first floor at Clinic E. Take the Yellow or Pink lifts.

## The Metanephrine Measurement Test

Once admitted a local anaesthetic cream will be applied to your child's hand and/or inner elbow. This cream takes about an hour to work. An intravenous line can then be put in without causing any pain.

A needle is used to insert the intravenous cannula. Once in the vein the needle is taken out. A plastic tube is left lying in the vein. This plastic tube should not cause any pain. Once in, it stays in for the whole test.

Once the intravenous line has been inserted, your child will need to remain lying down for 20–30 minutes. After the 20-30 minutes the blood samples will be collected.

The intravenous line will then be removed and you can go home if your child is otherwise well.

## Results

The results will be sent to your child's doctor in 2-3 weeks. You will receive these results at your next Endocrine Clinic or private endocrine appointment, or your child's doctor may phone you.





Government of **Western Australia**  
Child and Adolescent Health Service

**This document can be made available in alternative formats  
on request for a person with a disability.**

**Child and Adolescent Health Service**  
15 Hospital Avenue, Nedlands, WA, 6009  
Telephone: (08) 6456 2222  
Produced by Endocrinology and Diabetes  
Ref: 845 © CAHS 2017

**Disclaimer:** This publication is for general  
education and information purposes.  
Contact a qualified healthcare professional  
for any medical advice needed.  
© State of Western Australia,  
Child and Adolescent Health Service