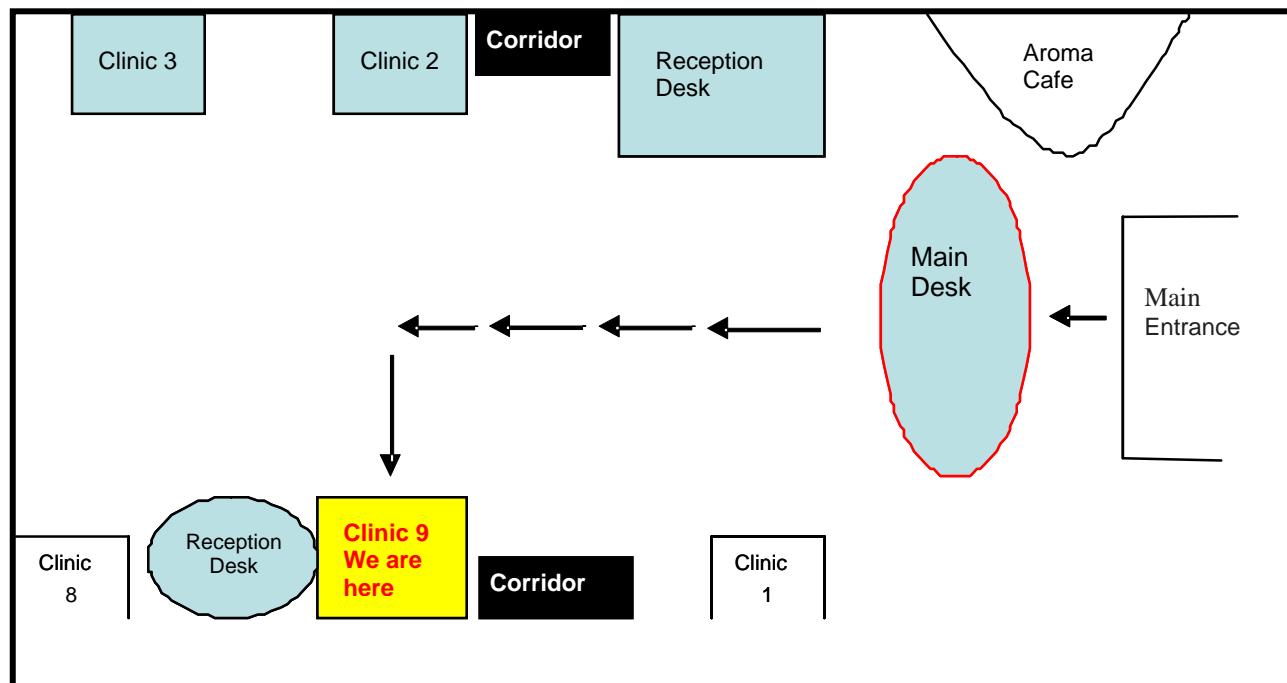


Respiratory Function Laboratory
Outpatient Department
Clinic Area 9



RESPIRATORY FUNCTION LABORATORY

The Paediatric Respiratory Function Laboratory is located in Clinic area 9 in the Outpatient Department of The Royal Hospital for Children within the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital campus.

Enter the main entrance of the Children's Hospital and walk straight up the main atrium to the clinic area. We are on the left hand side. When you scan in at the self-service kiosk you still need to ring the bell to let us know you have arrived.

Please ring the doorbell to let us know when you have arrived.

Respiratory Function Laboratory

IT IS IMPORTANT THAT YOU TELEPHONE OUR OFFICE WHEN YOU RECEIVE THIS LETTER TO LET US KNOW THAT YOU ARE ABLE TO KEEP YOUR APPOINTMENT.

Tel: 0141 452 4071

THE SKIN PRICK TEST

Your child's doctor has requested that a skin prick test be performed on your child. The test will take place in the Respiratory Function Laboratory.

This leaflet is sent with a letter informing you of the time and date of your appointment.

WHY DOES THIS NEED TO BE DONE?

A skin test is performed on some children who have problems with:- itchy nose, runny eyes and sneezing when they touch dogs cats or other animals or touch cut grass or other plants.

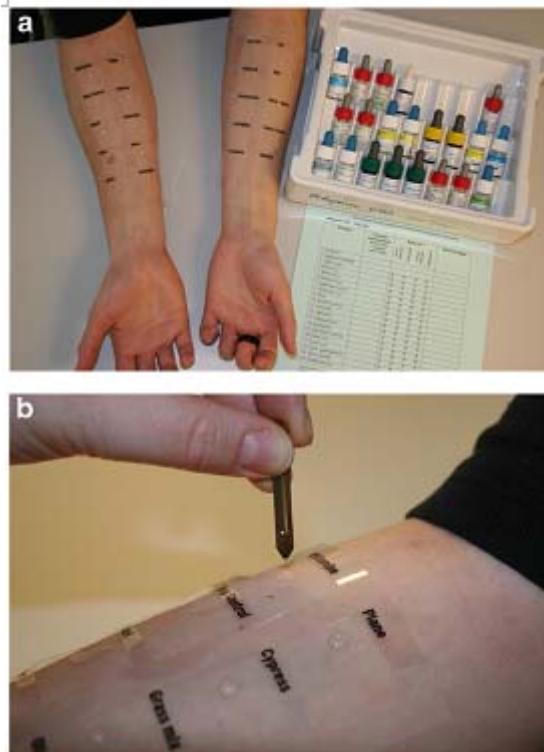
WHAT DO I NEED TO DO BEFORE THE TEST

In order for these tests to be performed properly, it would be best if the following medicines could be stopped for the times listed below.

ANTI-HISTAMINES e.g. Piriton, Triludan, Cetirizine or other similar medicines should be stopped for 7 days before the test is due.

HOW IS THE TEST DONE?

This test involves your child having around 8 droplets of different allergens e.g. (Cat fur or dog hair) placed on the skin along both forearms at 4 centimeter intervals. Each of these droplets will then be scratched once and left for 12-15 minutes to see if there is a reaction.



If your skin is reacting normally, two additional substances are scratched into your skin's surface:

Histamine. In most people, this substance causes a skin response. If you don't react to histamine, your allergy skin test may not reveal an allergy even if you have one.

Glycerin or saline. In most people, these substances don't cause any reaction. If you do react to glycerin or saline, you may have sensitive skin. Test results will need to be interpreted cautiously to avoid a false allergy diagnosis.

The most common side effect of skin testing is slightly swollen, red, itchy bumps (wheals). These wheals may be most noticeable during the test. In some people, though, an area of swelling, redness and itching may develop a few hours after the test and persist for as long as a couple of days.

DOES IT HURT?

Allergy skin tests are not painful. This type of testing uses lancets (see picture above) that scratches the skin's surface. You will not bleed or feel more than mild discomfort.

WHEN WILL I GET THE RESULTS?

You will see the result of the test on the day but you will need to wait until your next appointment with the referring consultant to obtain a full report.