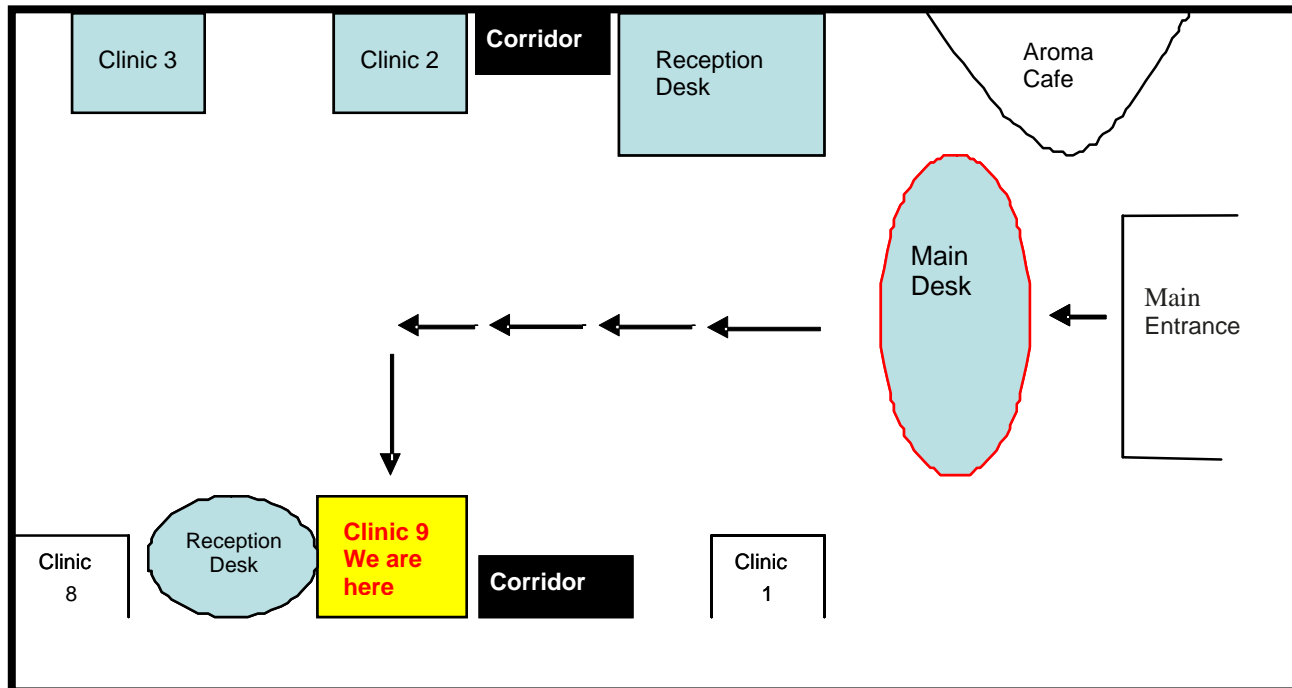


The Sweat Test

Respiratory Function Laboratory
Outpatient Department
Clinic Area 9

Tel: 0141 452 4071



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 you have arrived.

The Sweat Test

RESPIRATORY FUNCTION LABORATORY

Please telephone our office when you receive this letter to let us know that you can keep this appointment?

0141 452 4071

THE SWEAT TEST

Your child's doctor has requested that a sweat test be carried out on your child. The test will be take place in the Respiratory Function Laboratory.

Royal Hospital for Children – Out-patient
Department – Clinic area 9.

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

WHY DOES THIS NEED TO BE DONE?

A sweat test is a test we carry out on some children who have problems with:

- Cough and chest infections
- Weight gain
- Loose stools

WHAT IS A SWEAT TEST?

It's a test to collect a small amount of sweat from your child's skin. We test the sweat to see if your child has Cystic Fibrosis. The majority of children with CF are diagnosed as part of new-born screening. Very few are missed but in the unlikely event it has been missed it can be picked up by a sweat test.

WHAT IS CYSTIC FIBROSIS (CF)?

Cystic Fibrosis is a genetic (inherited) disease where there the salt and water balance in some of the fluids in the body is not normal. This can cause chest infections, loose stools and poor growth. It also causes too much salt in the sweat and we can measure this with the sweat test.

HOW IS THE TEST DONE?

Two gel pads are taped onto your child's forearm for 5 minutes, then with a TENS machine we pass a very small electrical current through the pads. This makes the skin sweat. After 5 minutes, a small circular coiled tube (like a wrist watch) is taped over the same area. This is left on for 30 minutes to collect sweat and your child will be free to play in that time. When the time is up, we will take the coil off.

DOES IT HURT?

The small electrical current can cause a small itchy, scratchy feeling, but this only lasts for five minutes.

WHEN WILL I GET THE RESULTS?

Biochemistry will send the results to your child's Consultant within a few days of the test. You will know the results within a week of the test being done. The results will tell your doctor one of three things:

- your child does not have cystic fibrosis
- the result is borderline or suggests your child has cystic fibrosis. If this happens, we will always repeat the test at least once.
- the amount of sweat collected was too small for any analysis to be performed, so we will need to repeat the test again.

WHAT IF WE NEED TO REPEAT THE TEST?

Most tests work first time, but not all. Children with some skin problems e.g. eczema, or very young children, may need a few tests before the result is clear. We will tell you if your child needs another test within a week of the first test being done.

IS THERE ANY REASON WHY MY CHILD SHOULD NOT COME FOR THE TEST?

If you think your child is not well enough to attend please telephone for advice as soon as you can.