

Speak Up - Prevent Errors in Your Child's Care Having a medical or laboratory test

What are medical and laboratory tests?

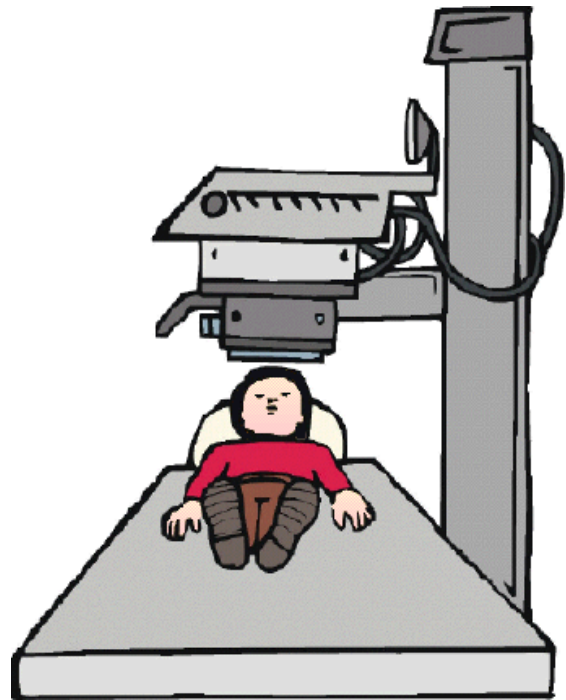
Medical tests include X-rays, MRIs, and CT scans. Lab tests include blood tests and urine samples.

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.

Are there any risks with medical or lab tests?

X-rays and CT scans use radiation. Some patients have received too much radiation. MRIs use strong magnets. Metal objects accidentally pulled into the MRI machine have injured some patients. Ask staff 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 staff if your child has had problems with contrast agents before. Immediately tell staff if your child begins to itch or have trouble breathing after getting a contrast agent.

Text adapted from a brochure in the "SpeakUP" series by The Joint Commission.

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