

## About the Khoo Teck Puat – National University Children's Medical Institute (KTP-NUCMI)

The KTP-NUCMI is the paediatric arm of the National University Hospital and comprises the Departments of Paediatrics, Paediatric Surgery and Neonatology. We provide comprehensive and specialised medical and surgical services for newborns, children and adolescents, and are the only public hospital in Singapore that offers paediatric kidney and liver transplant programmes. Through a generous gift from the Estate of Khoo Teck Puat, we have set up an integrated outpatient facility with medical, diagnostic and rehabilitation services.

For more information about us, visit [www.nuh.com.sg/ktp-nucmi](http://www.nuh.com.sg/ktp-nucmi).

### Contact Us

#### 24-hour Children's Emergency

Location: NUH Main Building, Zone F, Level 1  
General Enquiry: +65 6772 5000

#### KTP-NUCMI

Location: NUH Main Building, Zone E, Level 2  
(Accessible via Kent Ridge Wing, Zone C, Level 2, Lift Lobby C)  
Operating Hours: 8.30am – 5.30pm (Mon to Fri), 8.30am – 12.30pm (Sat)  
General Enquiry: +65 6772 5736 Appointment Line: +65 6908 2222  
Email: [ktpnucmi\\_appt@nuhs.edu.sg](mailto:ktpnucmi_appt@nuhs.edu.sg)

#### 9a Viva-University Children's Cancer Centre

Location: NUH Medical Centre, Zone B, Level 9  
Operating Hours: 8am – 5.30pm (Mon to Fri)  
Appointment Line: +65 6772 5030 Fax: +65 6872 4314  
Email: [cbccappt@nuhs.edu.sg](mailto:cbccappt@nuhs.edu.sg)

#### NUH Children's Urgent Care Clinic @ Bukit Panjang

Location: Junction 10, 1 Woodlands Road, #01-22, Singapore 677899  
Operating Hours: 9am – 11pm daily (including public holidays)  
General Enquiry: +65 6219 1538 Email: [childrenucc@nuhs.edu.sg](mailto:childrenucc@nuhs.edu.sg)  
Website: [www.nuh.com.sg/ucc](http://www.nuh.com.sg/ucc)

#### NUH Child Development Unit @ JMC

Location: Jurong Medical Centre,  
60 Jurong West Central 3, Level 2, Singapore 648346  
Operating Hours: 8.30am – 5.30pm (Mon to Fri)  
Appointment Line: +65 6665 2530/2531 Fax: +65 6665 0158  
Email: [cdu@nuhs.edu.sg](mailto:cdu@nuhs.edu.sg) Website: [www.nuh.com.sg/cdu](http://www.nuh.com.sg/cdu)

#### NUH Child Development Unit @ Keat Hong

Location: Keat Hong Community Club,  
2 Choa Chu Kang Loop, #03-01, Singapore 689687  
Operating Hours: 8.30am – 5.30pm (Mon to Fri)  
Appointment Line: +65 6769 4537/4637 Fax: +65 6665 0158  
Email: [cdu@nuhs.edu.sg](mailto:cdu@nuhs.edu.sg) Website: [www.nuh.com.sg/cdu](http://www.nuh.com.sg/cdu)

#### National University Hospital

Location: 5 Lower Kent Ridge Road, Singapore 119074  
Tel: +65 6908 2222 Email: [contactus@nuhs.edu.sg](mailto:contactus@nuhs.edu.sg)  
Website: [www.nuh.com.sg](http://www.nuh.com.sg)



# Facts About Allergy Tests



**I CAN!**  
The Children's Asthma and Allergy Network



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Information is correct at the time of printing (July 2022) and subject to revision without prior notice.

**Khoo Teck Puat – National University  
Children's Medical Institute**

# What are allergy tests?

An allergy occurs when the body produces abnormal amounts of antibody called Immunoglobulin E (IgE). Allergy tests use different methods to measure the amount of IgE.

## Who should be tested?

Children who have persistent and difficult to control allergic symptoms should be tested. This includes children with moderate or severe persistent asthma, asthmatics on high dose steroids, or children with eczema, rhinitis or conjunctivitis that is more than mild in severity. Children highly suspected to have an allergy should be tested. In addition, children who have suspected food allergy, especially those on multiple food restrictions, should be tested.

## How are the allergy tests performed?

### • Skin Prick Test

The skin prick test involves putting a small amount of the suspected allergen on normal skin and using a small needle to prick the skin. This test is safe and painless. It can be done on patients of any age, including newborns.

The prerequisites are:

- Your child should not be taking any short-acting antihistamines such as chlorpheniramine, hydroxyzine or promethazine for 3 days or longer-acting

antihistamines such as levocetirizine or desloratadine for 1 week before the test.

- There is sufficient area of normal skin not affected by eczema.

### • Blood Test

The blood test involves obtaining a small sample of blood from your child and testing if he or she is allergic to common allergens. This test is not as sensitive as the skin prick test and it is more expensive. It is suitable for patients who cannot be taken off antihistamines or those with acute eczema.

## Which test is better?

Each test has its advantages. The skin prick test is a good initial screening test that is quick, safe and inexpensive.

## How accurate are the tests?

These tests have a good negative predictive value, indicating that the substance is not causing the allergy. Your doctor is the best person to interpret the test(s) for you. Based on his or her judgement, your doctor may perform more tests. The range of allergens used in skin prick tests and the technique are very important to obtain accurate results. Inappropriate allergen selection and improperly done tests can result in false positive and false negative results that are confusing to the interpreter.

## What are the tests available at NUH?

We have a wide range of food allergens, inhaled allergens (such as house dust mites) and medications that we can test for. Test can also be custom-made for unusual food and drugs.

The information provided in this publication is meant purely for educational purposes and may not be used as a substitute for medical diagnosis or treatment. You should seek the advice of your doctor or a qualified healthcare provider before starting any treatment or if you have any questions related to your health, physical fitness or medical condition.

