

Information for Parents About Voiding Cystourethrogram (VCUG)

How is the test scheduled?

If you have a health maintenance organization (HMO) for your insurance, you will need to get a referral from your primary care physician for the VCUG. We will send a letter to your doctor explaining our recommendations. Call your doctor's office in 4-5 days to get the referral. If you are not covered by an HMO, you can schedule the test today with one of the representatives at the front desk. If you would rather make the appointment at a later time, call 708-216-0170.

Where will the VCUG be performed?

If you have an HMO, your primary care physician will tell you where the test will be performed. At Loyola, all VCUGs for children are done on the first lower level in the Russo Pavilion (see map) at the medical center (2160 First Avenue, Maywood, IL).

How is the test done?

A catheter is inserted through the urine channel into the bladder. Special liquid that shows up on x-rays is used to fill the bladder. As the child urinates, x-rays are taken to see if any of the liquid leaks up into the kidneys.

What might the test show?

The test is usually done to detect reflux (backwards leakage of urine from the bladder up into the kidneys) or a blockage in the urine channel.

How will I get the results of the VCUG?

Our office will receive the report of the VCUG within two days of the testing. Call Anne Casaccio, R.N. (708-216-5111) for the report. If you would like a copy of the printed report for your records, let us know and we can provide one.

Can't I just ask the x-ray doctor for the results?

No. Although the radiology department is expert at the testing, it is our responsibility to provide reports to you. Please feel free to ask us any questions about the testing.

Is there anything I can do to make the testing easier for my child?

The test requires placement of a catheter in the urine channel. This can cause burning. If your child is an infant (< 12 months old), you can give your child Tylenol. Older children can have a dose of ibuprofen (Motrin, Advil, or generic) at least one hour before the testing. Another medication that may help children age 3 or older (UroStat) is available over-the-counter. The pills can be crushed and mixed into applesauce, yogurt or ice cream. Give your child one pill about 3 hours before the testing. Have your child urinate before he/she leaves the house. This medication will turn your child's urine orange, but it will help to make the lining of your child's urine tract less sensitive.

Directions to the Medical Center



Map of the Medical Center

