

## Gastric Aspirates - Information for Families

Your child is being seen for suspected tuberculosis (TB). It is important for us to be able to find the particular TB germ that is infecting your child so that we can test it to see which drugs will work to kill the germ. Adults and older kids can usually cough up a good amount of mucus for us to test for the TB bacteria. Younger children don't have strong enough muscles to cough up enough mucus for testing.

To get a sample from young children, we do a procedure called a gastric aspirate.

A tube is passed through the child's nose into the stomach to collect mucus. The test is uncomfortable, but only takes a few minutes. To have the best possibility of growing the TB germ from the gastric aspirate, we usually collect the samples three mornings in a row. It is important to get the sample early in the morning before the stomach empties. Your child should have nothing to eat or drink after midnight on the night before the procedure.

This test is very important in diagnosing and treating your child's TB.

Please follow all instructions carefully and be sure to ask questions!

*Please CALL with any questions!*

*Clinic Phone #:*

*After-hours phone #:*

*Instructions for Gastric Aspirates:*

1. Your child should have nothing to eat or drink after midnight on the night before.
2. Please arrive promptly first thing in the morning at the appointed time:  
\_\_\_\_\_.
3. Your child and any family members who have not been tested for TB and who have not been cleared with a normal chest x-ray, must wear masks.
4. Please bring the following items requested by the doctor:
  - chest x-rays
  - medical records
  - insurance card
  - social security card or number

*Clinic address:*

*Directions to Clinic:*