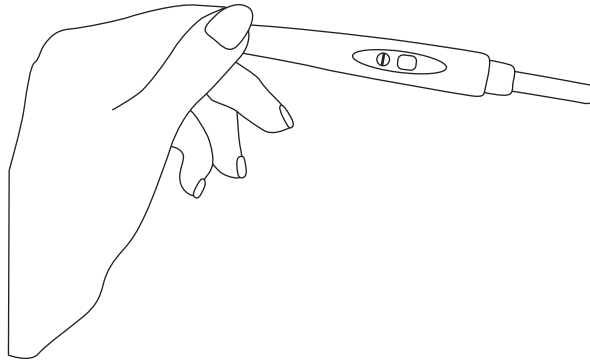


Pregnancy Test

HOW TESTING STICKS WORK

Today there are several very effective methods for testing to find out if a woman is pregnant. One of the most cost-effective and reliable methods is to use a pregnancy testing stick. The stick is used to test for the presence of the hormone hCG.

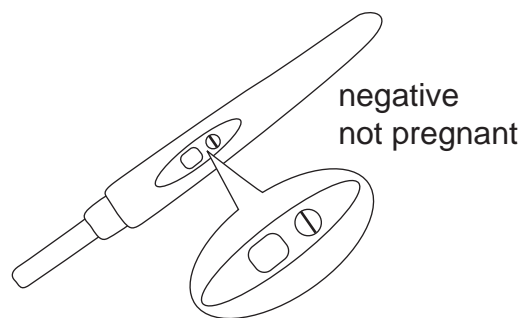
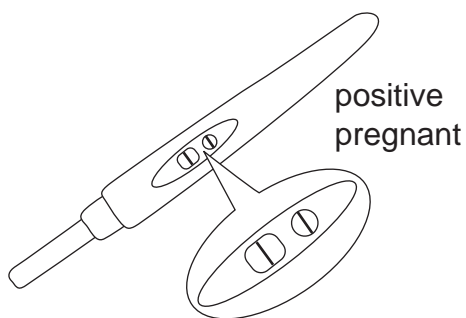


When a woman is pregnant, hCG appears in her urine 6-10 days after fertilisation, and can be detected by most home pregnancy tests from the day the period is due. The hormone hCG is produced by the implanted embryo and stimulates the Corpus Luteum to continue to produce progesterone.

Progesterone prevents the breakdown of the endometrium that would otherwise occur at the end of the menstrual cycle.

The test stick uses two special antibodies (proteins) to react with the hCG. The test works by causing the hCG molecules to be trapped between the two antibodies. One of the antibodies is attached to a dye, which makes a coloured line in the window of the testing kit if the test is positive.

The test is very simple to perform. The stick is held in the urine for 5 seconds and then allowed to stand for 1 minute. The test can be carried out at any time of the day from the day the missed menstrual period is due. Laboratory tests have demonstrated that this product is more than 99% accurate. Clearblue was one of the first test sticks on the market and was the world's first one step home pregnancy test when it was introduced in 1988.



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Help and Advice

Pregnancy Test

HELP AND ADVICE ON PREGNANCY

If you are concerned or think that you are pregnant it is important that you make an appointment with your doctor as soon as possible. Alternatively you can contact your local family planning clinic who are there to help. Sitting down and talking with someone face to face is the best course of action to take. (You can get contact details for your local family planning clinic by calling the National Helpline on 0800 028 2228 or visit the Family Planning Association web site on www.fpa.org.uk)

Other Sources of information

Care for life

National helpline and organisation concerned with welfare of women in relation to pregnancy and pregnancy loss.

PO BOX 6906

Chelmsford

CM1 3YO

0800 028 2228

www.pregnancy.org.uk

Gingerbread

Mutual support and help for one parent families

Tel: 0171 336 8183- general information/request an information pack.

Tel: 0800 018 4318- Confidential Advice Line.

www.gingerbread.org.uk

Family Planning Association

2-12 Pentonville Road

London

N1 9FP

Tel: 020 7837 5432

Helpline (England): 020 7837 4044

Helpline (Northern Ireland): 028 90 325 488

Helpline (Wales): 0845 600 1213

Helpline (Scotland): 0141 576 5088

www.fpa.org.uk



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