Kidney Tests

Renal (kidney) Ultrasound
- Most common visual test ordered by pediatric nephrology
- No radiation is used and it is painless
- The pediatric nephrologist will order the ultrasound prior to or at the appointment so the results can be reviewed with the patient and family during the appointment

Voiding Cystourethrogram (VCUG)
- Looks for bladder and ureter abnormalities
- A radiology technician places a catheter into the bladder through the urethra and a standard or a radioactive contrast is inserted through the catheter to allow the radiologist to examine bladder integrity and the presence or absence of reflux
- The pediatric nephrologist will often order the VCUG for the same day as the outpatient nephrology visit so that results can be reviewed with the patient and family during the appointment

Nuclear Medicine Studies
- Allows the pediatric nephrologist to observe kidney function, the presence or absence of kidney tissue, or obstruction
- An IV is placed in the arm and a radioactive substance travels through the IV to the kidneys
- The radiologist will measure how fast the contrast is excreted by the kidneys

Computerized Tomography Scan (CT or CAT scan)
- Often ordered for patients who are at risk for kidney stones
- The test is associated with radiation exposure so the pediatric nephrologist will often start with a renal ultrasound and only order a CT scan if it is absolutely necessary

Alternate Location Testing
Please bring copies of films or discs (not just reports) from previous tests that were performed outside of Children’s Hospital of Richmond. The team will review these test results at the appointment. The team does not have access to results from tests performed at sites outside of the Children’s Hospital of Richmond campuses.

Location and Appointments
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Notes: