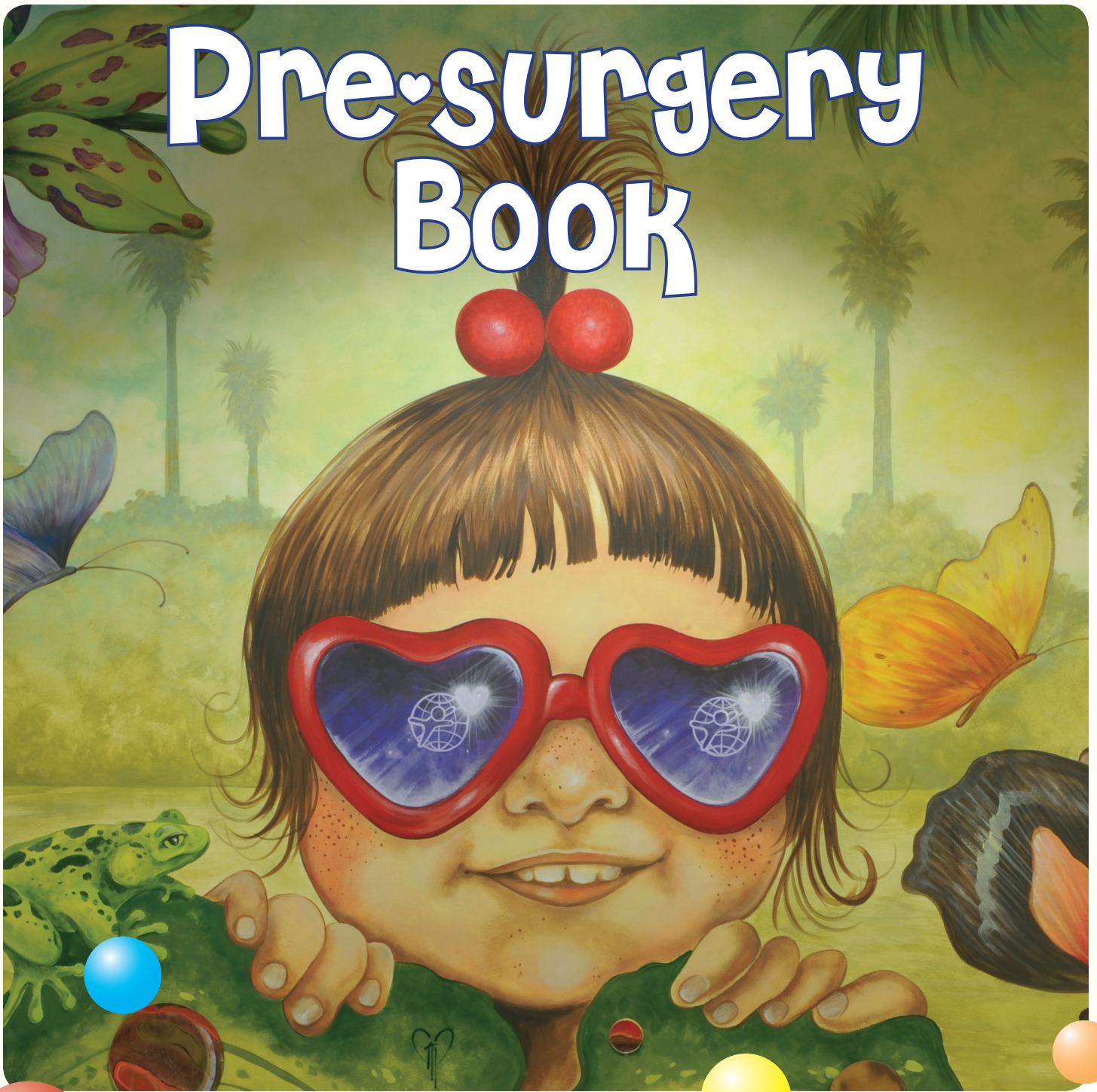


# Pre-surgery Book



MIAMI  
CHILDREN'S  
HOSPITAL®

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Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Thank you for choosing Miami Children's Hospital for your child's care. We understand that a child's surgery can be a stressful experience for both the child and the family. Rest assured that our entire staff is dedicated to the safety, comfort and well-being of your child. The team you will meet during your experience is made up of nurses, nurse practitioners, anesthesiologists, surgeons, child life specialists, social workers, and many other healthcare professionals dedicated to the provision of world-class pediatric care.

What's more, Miami Children's offers a care environment created exclusively for children and families. Miami Children's is South Florida's only licensed free-standing specialty hospital exclusively for children. The 289-bed hospital is renowned for excellence in all aspects of pediatric medicine with several specialty programs ranked among the best in the nation by U.S. News & World Report. Our operating rooms, intensive care units, and surgical floors are designed to provide your child with safe, technically advanced surgical care in a warm and comforting environment.

Please know that while you are at Miami Children's, your family is an essential part of the care team. We will include you in all aspects of healthcare delivery and your participation is encouraged at all times.

It is our hope that this booklet will help prepare you and your child for surgery. If you have any specific questions about your child's procedure, his or her physician will always be happy to help. If you would like to speak further about resources for your child during his or her stay, arrange a pre-operative visit, or contact our Child Life Department for guidance.

We look forward to serving your child and family. You are the reason we are here.

Sincerely,

*Miami Children's Hospital Surgical Team*

# Insurance and Referrals

When contacting Miami Children's Hospital regarding your child's surgery, please have the following information available:

- Name of the child's insurance company
- Name, Social Security number, place of employment and work phone number of the policy holder
- Both the policy and group numbers
- Name, address, and phone number of the referring physician

## What Does the Insurance Company Require?

Always contact your insurance company regarding any special steps it may require prior to scheduling the surgery. Depending on the insurance provisions, these may include:

- A referral from a primary physician
- A second opinion (*If so, it is your responsibility to obtain one*)
- Payment of a deductible
- Payment of a co-pay
- Clauses related to preexisting conditions

## What if I Do Not Have Insurance?

If you do not have insurance please contact Miami Children's Hospital's financial counselors for assistance at (305) 663-8452.

## Information about who can Sign Consents

**Biological parents:** May sign unless a court of law has determined there is reason they may not do so.

**Adoptive parents:** May also sign but need to provide a copy of the court's approval of the adoption.

**Foster parents:** Please check with the child's social worker to verify authority to sign a consent. Court documentation of that right needs to be provided. Please also provide the name and number of the child's Social worker or case manager. If the foster parent does not have court approval to provide consent, documentation from the court giving consent needs to be provided.

**Caregiver/Family Member:** May not consent for treatment or surgery unless a written authorization to do so from one of the biological parents is provided.

Please know that it is important that any documentation requested above be provided to avoid delay or cancellation of surgery.



# scheduling surgery

Your surgeon's office will notify you of the date of your child's surgery. The office will also let you know off any pre-procedure tests or labs that need to be completed prior to the day of surgery. The day prior to the surgery date, you will be contacted with the time to be at the hospital.



# Family Services

Miami Children's Hospital strives to meet the needs of the entire family to lessen the stress and anxiety that can accompany hospitalization. The family services offered at Miami Children's Hospital is a continuing expression of Miami Children's Hospital's commitment to patient and family-centered care. Below you will find a list of family services available to your child and family:



## **Michael Fux Family Center**

The Michael Fux Family Center is a continuing expression of Miami Children's Hospital's commitment to patient and family-centered care. The Fux Family Center provides a safe, non-threatening, calming environment for the patients and families coming to the hospital. The center's design includes a movie/performance theater, a parent and child library, spa room, small gym, recreation room with art and video center, living room, a kitchen, and a laundry room.

## **Social Work**

Social Work staff can assist with accommodating home health care, hospital homebound schooling, serve as an advocate for the family, and help arrange any medical needs.

## **Patient and Guest Relations**

Patient and Family Representatives help families in coping with challenging situations. If families express concerns, the representatives will strive to address their needs.

## **Child Life Department**

The Child Life Department provides support and preparation to patients and families throughout the hospital experience. Child Life Specialists provide care in order to foster normal growth and development, as well as provide distraction from procedures and hospitalization. The Child Life Department provides a playroom, a Teen Lounge, as well as other unit-



specific playrooms throughout the hospital to provide an environment that is familiar for children along with their families .



### **Pet Therapy**

The Pet Therapy program offers the comfort of specially trained dogs who visit patients and families at the bedside.



### **Radio Lollipop**

Radio Lollipop is a radio station in the hospital that airs live three times a week. Here, your child can serve as a DJ, and participate in trivia games, contests and art projects.

### **Big Apple Circus® Clown Care**

The Clown Care team is designed to bring laughter as medicine. Clowns visit the bedside to bring smiles and joy to patients and families.

### **Volunteers and Bedside Buddies**

Miami Children’s Hospital is fortunate to have many devoted volunteers who help support the children in our care. A group of Child Life volunteers, nurse volunteers, and volunteers from the Bedside Buddies program, visit families in the room, playing board games, reading books or doing art projects with patients to help amuse and divert.

### **Music Therapy**

Music Therapy provides an outlet for children to express themselves in a comforting and healing way.



### **Chaplain Services**

An interfaith chaplain is available for the spiritual and emotional needs of patients and families and visits those patients/families who have requested the chaplain upon admission or during their hospitalization.

# Preparing your child for surgery

The prospect of hospitalization and a medical procedure can bring about feelings of anxiety among children and teens. Preparing children in advance of the surgery and hospital experience will reduce stress and promote an environment of trust between the child and hospital staff.

## Tips for Preparing your Child at any Age

- For a child under the age of 5, parents are encouraged to talk to the child a day or two before the experience. School-age children and teenagers should have anywhere from a few days to a week to process information and ask any questions they may have.
- Be honest. If you do not know the answer, explain to your child you do not know, but you will find out.
- Use words children will understand.
- Encourage your child to share feelings and ask questions about the upcoming procedure or hospital stay.
- Do not continue with a discussion if your child does not seem ready or prefers not to know everything you have to share.
- Assist your child in packing a suitcase or backpack with the things he or she wants in the hospital. Your child may be able to wear his or her own pajamas though some units may require a child to wear hospital pajamas.
- Ask about the Scrub Club program, which prepares children and families for surgery, provided through the Child Life Department. You can register your family at (786) 624-3932.

It is not unusual to see changes in your child's behavior before, during or after hospitalization. Children's responses to hospitalization and medical procedures will vary, depending on their ages, past experiences and past procedures.

Child Life staff offer age-appropriate preparation for medical procedures. Contact the Child Life Department at (786) 624-4875.



## Tips Based on Age/Developmental Level

### Infants (0 to 12 months old)

Parents of infants can help the child by being relaxed and calm in the child's presence. Infants are sensitive to emotions around them. If you are displaying signs of anxiety or stress, your child will pick up on that and be anxious too. On the day of surgery, bring your child's favorite blanket, toy, or other special comfort item to the hospital. After surgery, infants are more likely to drink from a bottle nipple or juice cup that they are using at home, so it is recommended that you bring an empty bottle or cup for use after surgery. It is also important to try to keep your child's daily routines as consistent as possible while in the hospital.

### Toddlers (1 to 3 years old)

Toddlers are best prepared a day before surgery, by using simple words that they understand. You can read books with your child about going to the hospital. Engaging your child in play with a toy medical kit can allow for the opportunity for your child to express his or her feelings. Toddlers are learning to be independent and like to make choices, so it is important to offer choices when available. It is important to remember to only offer realistic choices. For example, "Which toy would you like to take with you?", "Which outfit would you like to wear to the hospital today?"

*While at the Hospital:* Explain what the doctors or nurses will do before they examine your child. Toddlers learn by watching others. You may want to let the nurse listen to your heart, or your child's favorite stuffed animal's "heart" first, before attempting to listen to your child's. This helps make the surgery exam as non-threatening as possible.

### Preschoolers (3 to 5 years old)

It is best to begin to prepare your preschooler three days in advance. You may find the following suggestions useful in communicating with a preschooler. Talk to your child about the hospital using simple words describing what he or she might see, hear and feel during their visit. Explain that the hospital is a safe place, where many children come to see doctors and then go home. It is important to always be honest with your child. Give simple explanations and answers to questions without offering too many details. Children of this age often believe that they have done something wrong and are being punished. Help your child understand that he or she did not do anything to cause the surgery, procedure, or hospitalization. If your child is not ready to discuss the event, do not try to force a conversation. Here are some suggestions for language to use with your child:

- Pre-Surgical waiting room: "Get ready room"
- Blood pressure cuff: "Arm hugger"
- Pulse oximeter: "Glow finger"
- Stretcher: "Bed with wheels"
- Recovery room: "Wake up room"
- Anesthesia: "Sleepy medicine" *\*\*Be sure to emphasize that it is not like the sleep they have at night. This is a special kind of sleep where they won't see, hear, or feel anything, and they won't wake up in the middle.*

Play is how preschoolers learn, so playing “hospital” or “doctor” may prove beneficial. You can use a toy doctor kit and stuffed animal to play. Practice things like measuring temperature and blood pressure, listening to your body with a stethoscope, and drinking medication. This will help your child become more familiar with medical equipment and the routine before surgery.

Schedule an appointment with the hospital to attend Scrub Club to further prepare your child and any siblings. There, a Child Life Specialist will better help to prepare you and your family for the upcoming procedure as well as take you and your family on a tour of the hospital and things you may see the day of surgery. The number to reach the Scrub Club is (786) 624-3932.

### **School-Age Children (5 to 12 years old)**

Begin preparing your child about one to two weeks before the scheduled surgery. Help your child understand why he or she needs to have the procedure, surgery, or hospitalization. Allow your child the opportunity to ask questions and express concerns that they may have regarding the surgery or recovery period. Provide your child more detail about what he or she will hear, see, smell, and feel while in the hospital. Remember to be honest. School-age children can have many misconceptions of the hospital experience. When children receive information about what they will experience, they often find reality less frightening than what they imagine.

Ask your child open-ended questions such as, “If you had any questions about your surgery what would they be?” Fear of body mutilation is common at this age, so let your child know if a body part will look different after surgery. Prepare your child for seeing stitches or bandages if they will have any when they come out of surgery.

Schedule an appointment with the hospital to attend Scrub Club to further prepare your child and any interested siblings. During this visit, a Child Life Specialist will help to prepare you and your family for the upcoming procedure as well as take you and your family on a tour of the hospital and things you may see the day of surgery. The number to reach the Scrub Club is (786) 624-3932.

### **Teens (12 to 18 years old)**

Adolescents are primarily concerned with body image, loss of control, privacy, and maintaining relationships with friends. Discuss with your teenager what is going to happen before, during and after surgery, and provide as much detail as needed, while remembering to be honest. Encourage adolescent participation in discussions with the doctor or nurse during appointments, by empowering your teen to bring a list of questions. Remember, all questions are important. Respect your adolescent’s need for privacy.

# Pre-surgical TOUR and orientation

If your child is having surgery, then Scrub Club is for you. The Scrub Club is a program designed to familiarize you and your family with the surgery process and is intended to meet the needs of both patients and siblings. When your child is having surgery, he or she may have a lot of important questions. Let our Child Life Department help prepare you and your family for surgery and learn what to expect during your hospital stay.



A Child Life Specialist will provide the following:

- Surgical teachings using child-friendly language
- Medical play sessions to enhance understanding of medical equipment and supplies
- Tour of specific areas your family may see on the day of surgery to familiarize you with the sights and sounds of the hospital
- Helpful information and resources for parents
- Support for siblings
- Opportunities to answer any questions the child may have about surgery or what will happen when at the hospital.

The Child Life Scrub Club is offered on a weekly basis and can be scheduled by calling the Child Life Department at (786) 624-3932.

\*This program is designed for children and siblings ages 3 and up.

# Anesthesia: What to expect

For pediatric patients, most surgical procedures require a general anesthetic. The anesthesia care team led by a pediatric anesthesiologist will provide safe care for your child. In order to minimize risk and complications, the Department of Anesthesiology has developed some instruction that should be followed before surgery.

## Information about Food and Drink

The time your child should stop eating solid food and stop drinking clear liquids, such as water or apple juice is based upon your child's scheduled procedure. This is known as the NPO time (nothing by mouth). It is very important that these guidelines be followed for the safety of your child. When a child is under general anesthesia, all their muscles relax and vomiting of any food or drink is possible. The NPO guidelines provided by the Anesthesia Team reflect the time that it takes for a person to digest and empty the stomach. A light meal is recommended for the evening before surgery.

## Information about Medications

Your nurse will ask you whether your child has allergies and inquire about prior hospitalizations, surgical procedures and anesthetics. The care team will also ask about any medications your child is taking. Please make a list of medications, including the dose and administration times, and provide this information during the preoperative call before surgery and on the day of surgery. Some medications cannot be stopped in order to maintain a therapeutic level and maintain your child's health needs. Please check with your surgeon whether to continue or discontinue any prescription medications prior to surgery especially if your child is taking seizure or heart medications. Patients taking breathing medications, such as albuterol or Xopenex<sup>®</sup> are advised to receive a treatment the night before and the morning of surgery.





## **Important! What Medicines Not to Give**

Please avoid giving your child any non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) prior to surgery, especially aspirin or aspirin-containing products for at least 2 weeks prior to surgery. NSAIDs include ibuprofen, also known by brand names Motrin® and Advil®. These drugs may increase the risk of bleeding during and after the surgical procedure.

Herbal medications should be stopped at least one week prior to surgery.

## **The Visit with the Anesthesiologist**

The anesthesiologist who will be caring for your child will meet with you and examine your child. It is likely that you will be asked the same questions several times by different people. It is only to confirm the answer to these very important questions. Such as:

*What are your child's allergies?  
When did your child last eat or drink?*

Prior to the procedure, the doctor will use the information from the preoperative call and ask additional questions. The anesthesiologist will review with you the plan for your child's care during the pre-operative period. This is the time for you to ask any questions you may have regarding anesthesia such as:

*Will my child be asleep for the surgery?  
Will my child have any pain afterwards?  
Will my child be given pain medications in the recovery area?  
How soon can we see our child after the surgery?  
When should my child take their medications again?*

Preoperatively, or during the time just before surgery, some children may receive a sedative. Intra-operatively, or while in the operating room, some children will breathe into a mask to fall asleep, others may require a breathing tube. Each child is monitored throughout the surgery and some patients may have need of a blood transfusion. The need for special care such as blood transfusions and overnight stays will be discussed with you by the anesthesiologist or surgeon should these precautions be needed.

Post-operatively, or after the surgery, your child's discomfort or pain will be managed by the anesthesiologist in the recovery room, and later by the surgeon through direct orders if your child stays overnight, or through prescriptions that will be given to you before you go home.



## After the Surgery

The anesthesiologist oversees the care in the recovery room (PACU) where a specially trained nurse will care for your child on a one-to-one basis. Patients who will spend the night will go to a nursing floor after recovery and those who go home will go to a step down version of recovery called PACU II, or post-op where the patients can awaken fully. Here there may be one nurse for two or three patients. Your child will continue to be evaluated to assess for pain or nausea, and ability to tolerate fluids and urinate.

Toddlers may feel more comfortable drinking out of their own sippy cups or bottles as well as having their own comfort items such as pacifiers, blankets or toys.



# What to expect the day before surgery

At Miami Children's we will strive to make your visit to our hospital and Surgical Services Department as worry-free as possible. It starts well before the day of surgery, from the time you or your child are seen in the surgeon's office and continues until you leave us after your surgical intervention and recovery period.

You will be called the day before surgery by the nursing staff in the Same Day Surgery Department between the hours of 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. If you have not been called by 7 p.m. or if you receive a message from our nurses, please call us at (786) 624-3950. You may also pre-register your child for surgery by calling 305-740-5038 or by computer at [www.mch.com](http://www.mch.com) at least three days before the scheduled surgery.

## **Information Received in Pre-op Phone Call**

The nurses will ask you about your child's health history and inform you of specific guidelines. These will include the food and drink your child will be able to have and at what time they will need to stop taking any foods or fluids. Adolescents will be asked to come in without piercings, nail polish, or makeup. Also be aware that any contact lenses and glasses will be removed so please bring a carrier and/or needed supplies.

## **Medical Clearance and Reports**

Please bring any clearances and reports from your pediatrician or other medical specialists with you on the day of surgery. If you have been requested by your surgeon to obtain a surgical clearance, it needs to be completed by your pediatrician one to three days before the surgery. If your child is under the care of any specialists, such as a pulmonologist, cardiologist, neurologist, endocrinologist or any other specialized medicine physician, a medical clearance from that physician may be required.

## **Pre-op Cleansing/ Bathing**

All patients are asked to shower the night before and/or morning of surgery. In some cases, a special soap may be required for use. If you did not receive the soap, you will be instructed on how to obtain it and directions for use.



## Arrival Times/ Need to Reschedule Surgery

The nurses will inform you of the appropriate time for your arrival at the hospital. Please allow time for traffic and rain so you can arrive with adequate time for the registration process and pre-operative preparations. We ask that you call the surgeon's office or the surgical department at (786) 624-3950 or (786) 624-3420 in the event that your child will not be able to have surgery on the scheduled date or time. We understand that there are situations that are out of your control and sometimes surgeries must be cancelled and rescheduled.

## Preparing for Day of Surgery

A parent or legal guardian needs to be present the day of surgery to give surgical consent and be able to sign the appropriate forms. A legal guardian is a parent with parental rights or other guardian with the legal papers in hand. Legal guardians can include foster parents or the parents of patients who are over 18 years of age, but who are dependent on their parents for legal matters. Our Social Work Department can help you with any concerns. Please call (786) 624-3344. It is very important that all instructions be followed. If you have any questions at any time, please call your surgeon's office or the Same Day Surgery Department at (786) 624-3950.

*What to bring:* extra underwear, a child's favorite toy or blanket, a special drinking cup for toddlers and young children. Don't forget the stroller and the car seat. Try to have another person with you so one of you can concentrate on your child while the other can help with the belongings, meals, etc. Older children can bring their portable electronics. Please be sure to keep your belongings with you at all times throughout your visit.

## Emmi Solutions

Emmi Solutions is a free website that will give you information about your child's upcoming surgery and anesthesia. If you would like to view Emmi Solutions online prior to your child's surgery, you will need a working e-mail account and an access code. The access code can be provided to you when you receive the surgical instructions the day before surgery or by calling (786) 624-3950.





# What to expect the Day of Surgery

At Miami Children's Hospital, we understand that surgery can be a stressful and unfamiliar experience for you and your family. The hospital is dedicated to making this an experience that is family-centered and focused on the needs of your child.

## Arriving at the Hospital

Feel free to bring a comfort toy and/or blanket with the child. We suggest that patients and families pack a backpack of the patient's favorite things. Many times there may be a waiting period from the time you arrive to the time the patient goes to surgery.

You will receive a call the evening before your scheduled surgery date informing you of what time to arrive at the hospital. Upon arrival, you can park in the visitor parking garage and enter at the welcome desk. There, you will retrieve an ID badge and will be directed to Patient Access to begin the process of registration.



Call (786) 624-3950 before or on the day of surgery if:

- Your child becomes ill.
- Your child has any food or drink (except clear liquids) after 12 midnight the night before surgery.
- You experience any delay the day of surgery that may prevent you from arriving at Miami Children's Hospital on time.

## Pre-Op

Once the registration process is complete in Patient Access, you will then be directed to the second floor to Pre-Op. Please follow the green footsteps on the floor to direct you to the Pre-Op area. In this room, there are eight patient bays, where patients await surgery. Here, your child will change into hospital pajamas, remove underwear and remove all metal and jewelry, including jewelry associated with body piercings. If your child has long hair, side braids can keep the hair from getting tangled. The nurse will take your child's vital signs, including temperature, heart rate, blood pressure and oxygen level. The nurse will also listen to your child's breathing and get an update on his/her health status, including any medicines or illnesses.

Also, if your child is female and of menstruating age, she will be required to take a urine test. For children age 10 and above, or due to extenuating circumstances, an intravenous catheter (IV) will be started on your child prior to the surgery. For younger patients, IV's will be placed during the procedure. The anesthesiologist will visit you prior to the surgery to discuss your child's history and to explain the steps involved in anesthesia. Please feel free to ask questions and express any concerns at any time.



Just before the time of surgery, your child will be given a medication called Versed to help him or her relax prior to surgery. Many healthcare workers refer to this as "silly juice," or "happy juice." This medicine is mixed with juice to make it taste better and soon after, patients are transported into the Operating Room. Once the medicine is given, do not allow your child to walk around, because he/she may be at risk for falling.

You may wait for your child during surgery in the waiting room located across the hall. One feature of the waiting room is the monitor that signals families which room their child is in throughout the process (i.e.-Operating Room, Recovery Room).



Each surgery is different and varies in length. Please refer to the monitor in the waiting room to know where your child is in the process.

We make every effort to be on schedule, but occasionally delays in surgery times do occur. We apologize if there is any delay with your procedure time. Please contact a staff member if you have questions or concerns.



## Recovery Room

Upon completion of the surgery, your child will be transported to the recovery room area. We will make every effort to reunite you with your child as soon as possible. While in the recovery room, nurses will provide your child with oxygen to help him or her wake up from the anesthesia. Nurses may also administer fluids and monitor any necessary medications. A member of the nursing staff will check your child's heart rate, breathing, blood pressure and temperature as he or she wakes up after surgery. Please ask your child's nurse any questions you may have. Once your child wakes up, we will bring you to the recovery room to be with your child.



## Post-Op

Most children are upset or crying after the surgery. Please understand that this could be due to the anesthesia medications and not because your child is in pain. Pain medication may be given, as needed. Please watch your child closely as judgment and coordination are often affected by anesthesia. This helps keep your child safe. Talking, holding, and reassuring your child as you typically do are very calming to them. Staying relaxed is important. Most children will need to drink (or eat Popsicles®, Jello®, etc.) and urinate before going home. There are occasional exceptions (example: patients with ear tubes can be discharged without urinating).

We are always happy to help with any questions or concerns. Feel free to ask any questions you may have.



# What to expect after surgery



Each child responds differently to anesthesia. Some children wake up quickly while others may wake up crying due to the effects of anesthesia. This can take up to two hours. When your child arrives to the nursing unit, please do not wake your child. Please allow your child to wake up on his or her own. Speak in a low voice, limit the numbers of visitors and keep the lights dimmed until your child is fully awake.

Some children may have dizziness or a sore throat due to the use of a breathing tube during surgery. Those symptoms usually go away within a day or two.

In addition, some children may have an upset stomach. Often children are given medications to help decrease the possibility of nausea and vomiting. For this reason, we start giving children clear liquids before offering solid foods.

Once your child is allowed to eat, please start with a light (non greasy) diet. Ask your nurse for guidance regarding appropriate food choices.

A member of the nursing staff will check your child's heart rate, blood pressure, breathing and temperature after you arrive in your room. Sometimes we have to closely monitor your child after surgery. The nurse may attach a machine which monitors your child's breathing, heart rate and oxygenation.

Miami Children's is dedicated to keeping your child as comfortable as possible after surgery. Your child may experience some discomfort or even pain following surgery. Managing your child's pain is very important to us and we try to control pain throughout your child's stay.



You can help by telling your child's care team what makes your child more comfortable while he/she experiences pain. It is helpful to support your child by holding his/her hand, rocking, cradling or cuddling. If possible, be sure to bring your child's favorite comfort items from home.

For those staying in the hospital for recovery, we offer you a chair bed for one person to stay overnight with your child. Please understand that as much as we would love to have the whole family stay over, the space in the room is limited.

The morning after surgery, you can help your child with bathing, brushing teeth and getting out of bed. If your child is not on bed rest, we encourage you to walk with your child.



Walking will allow for your child to recover more quickly from surgery. A playroom on the third floor and the Michael Fux Family Center on the first floor are great destinations and distractions for you and your child.



# checklist

- Attend Scrub Club by calling the Child Life Department at (786) 624-3932.
- Review surgical routine with your child in a way a child would understand (see pages 6-8).
- Make note of scheduled time of surgery the night before to make arrangements accordingly (if another family member is present, he or she can bring siblings to the Michael Fux Family Center).
- Be sure that your child does not eat or drink past specified time.
- Pack a backpack of your child's favorite toys, a blanket or sweater, a stuffed animal, pacifiers, sippy cups, or any other comfort items he or she may need.
- Bring a notebook for questions or instructions concerning surgery.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Founded in 1950 by Variety Clubs International, Miami Children's Hospital® is South Florida's only licensed specialty hospital exclusively for children, with more than 650 attending physicians and over 130 pediatric subspecialists. The 289-bed hospital is renowned for excellence in all aspects of pediatric medicine with specialty programs ranked among the best in the nation in 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2012 by *U.S. News & World Report*. The hospital is also home to the largest pediatric teaching program in the southeastern United States and has been designated an American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) Magnet facility, the nursing profession's most prestigious institutional honor.



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