

# The Day of Your Child's Surgery:

## What to Expect

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If your child needs to have surgery, you may be nervous about the procedure and anxious about preparing your child to handle the situation. These guidelines will help you know what to expect and, hopefully, ease your anxiety.

If you have any questions about your child's upcoming surgery, please call us at 503-216-5437.

- On the day of surgery, a parent or legal guardian must accompany your child to the hospital. This person should remain in the hospital during your child's time here.
- If you have other children, please make arrangements for someone to care for them at home or after school while you are at the hospital with the child who is having surgery.
- Short-term child care (generally two hours or less) is available at Providence St. Vincent at My Little Waiting Room for children whose parents or siblings are having medical appointments or procedures. For information about My Little Waiting Room, please call 503-216-6597 or visit [www.providence.org/oregon/mylittlewaitingroom](http://www.providence.org/oregon/mylittlewaitingroom).
- When you arrive at the hospital, you may take advantage of our free valet parking service. For valet parking, pull into the parking garage using the first entry past the hospital's East Pavilion circle drive. Pediatric surgery is located on the first floor of the hospital's East Pavilion in Gerry Frank Center for Children's Care.
- The Gerry Frank Center in the East Pavilion opens at 6 a.m., Monday through Friday. Check in there with your child. After checking in, you and your child will be escorted to the pre-operation room. Your child will change into hospital pajamas, and the nurse will check the child's weight and vital signs, including temperature, heart rate, blood pressure and breathing. The nurse will also update your child's health status and make notes about any illnesses or medications.
- Before going to the operating room, some children receive a sedative. If your child gets this medication, he or she may become sleepy, giggly, fussy or unsteady. Children who take this sedative are at risk for falling; therefore, they are not allowed to walk without supervision.

- Once your child is taken to surgery, please remain in the Gerry Frank lobby. The surgeon will look for you there when surgery is complete. He or she will meet you after the surgery to explain what they did and tell you how everything went.
- We will make every effort to reunite you with your child as soon as possible. For safety reasons, only two adults at a time are allowed in the recovery room. Other children are not allowed in recovery.
- After surgery, children often cry, are sleepy or feel uncomfortable. We will give your child pain medication, but he or she may be sad or fussy for a while after surgery. We will give you instructions on how to care for your child after surgery, and you may be given a follow-up appointment with your doctor.
- Once you are discharged, your child should not ride public transportation. Please arrange ahead of time for a car or taxi ride home.

#### OUR MISSION

As people of Providence,  
we reveal God's love for all,  
especially the poor and vulnerable,  
through our compassionate service.

#### OUR CORE VALUES

Respect, Compassion, Justice,  
Excellence, Stewardship

[www.providence.org/children](http://www.providence.org/children)

