

Parents Information – Paediatric Patients

Children are special people and need special treatment for their visit to hospital. Nobody knows your child better than you, so use your instincts to make them feel at ease.

Explain that having an operation involves a special sleep (anaesthetic) in a special bed and when they wake up the operation will be over. Be honest and factual - explain to your child some of the things that are necessary including the possibility of a sore throat. If you are unsure about questions note them down and ask our staff, the anaesthetist or the doctor doing the operation. An excellent website for information regarding anaesthesia is:

www.allaboutanaesthesia.com.au

Please contact your doctor's practice if there are any doubts because of coughs, colds, rashes, gastro type symptoms or if your child develops a toothache or has swelling prior to the appointment. Head lice impose an infection control risk and we do not accept children with head lice.

How long will your child be in hospital?

When your child is admitted the anaesthetist will need to examine your child and make a complete assessment. The operation cannot proceed if there are any increased risks.

The wait before the operation will be more comfortable if your child has a favourite toy, ipad etc. A book for you to read is useful for young children. On admission we ask that preferably only ONE parent remain with your child. Brothers, sisters and other children must not come to hospital. A DVD player is available in the admission room so it would be helpful if you could bring a favourite movie, as you may be at the hospital for between 1 to 4 hours approximately.

How long will the Procedure Take?

The operation may be quite lengthy, depending on the amount of treatment required. Also, if x-rays are taken whilst your child is anaesthetised then additional treatment may be required and your child may be in theatre for 2 hours or more, which is not uncommon. You will need to accompany your child into the operating theatre, so that they will feel secure and comfortable. You may leave the hospital during the operation so bring a mobile phone and we will contact you if necessary.

What happens after the operation?

Once the operation is finished you will be encouraged to snuggle and comfort your child. We have juice and lemonade icy poles. If there are other special requirements please bring these with you.

It is common for children to be a little upset when they wake after the anaesthetic simply because of the strange surroundings and the "funny feeling". We will be there to help and reassure but your child will want the undivided attention of ONE parent in recovery. Other relatives will not be permitted in recovery room. Recovery time is usually 1-2 hours.

What happens after we go home?

A separate leaflet containing discharge instructions will be provided before you leave the hospital.

What else should I bring?

We will not ask your child to change into special clothes so please dress them in loose clothes (pyjamas, shorts and T shirt). Please also bring a change of clothes.

Questions – Please write down any questions that you may have
