

What You Need to Know

Prior to your surgery:

The patient's health and physical appointment must be satisfactory and the Health & Physical form completed by a physician before the anesthesiologist will administer anesthesia for the elective operation.

The hospital staff will call you the day before your surgery after 2:00pm to let you know what time to arrive at the hospital.

The night before surgery:

The stomach must be empty to ensure safe anesthesia. For this reason, the patient cannot have food or liquids after midnight to prevent possible vomiting. Also, if the patient should develop the sudden onset of fever, chest cold, cough or any other change in health status during the night prior to surgery, the surgery **may** be cancelled. Please contact the hospital as soon as possible if any of the above occurs.

The day of surgery:

There is an interval of 15–45 minutes between arrival at the hospital and when the patient is taken to surgery. During this period, the patient goes from the C.A.R.E.S outpatient waiting room to an assigned outpatient room. Parents are allowed to stay with the child. The patient is then given a hospital gown and has their temperature, pulse, respiratory rate and weight recorded. The anesthesiologist will check the patient prior to the procedure, discuss the anesthesia to be used and answer any questions.

At the time of surgery, a staff member will take the patient to the operating room holding area and **one** parent may accompany them. After that, the parents may wait in the outpatient waiting room. Following the procedure, the doctor or nurse will call or come to speak to family member(s). The patient is taken to the recovery room for immediate postoperative care. He/she usually will remain there less than an hour. Thereafter, the patient will be brought back to their original outpatient room. The nurse will review instructions with the family member(s). The patient will be discharged once he/she meets criteria, i.e. awake, alert and no nausea or vomiting.

**** Please bring documentation of guardianship if anyone other than the patient's legal parent(s) will be accompanying the child to surgery. If legal documentation of guardianship is not brought to the hospital, the procedure may be cancelled. For example: Grandparents, Aunts, Uncles etc. ****