Important Information for Preparing your Child for Surgery

Franciscan Hospital for Children

Your child, _____ is scheduled for surgery on _____.

Please ensure the history and physical examination form is returned to your doctor by _____.

Important Reminders

Prior to Arrival:

❑ ***No food or drink prior to surgery***. Eating or drinking within 12 hours of surgery may result in cancelation of procedure.

Details: _____

❑ Is all necessary paperwork completed?

- ○ Insurance
- ○ Guardianship documents
- ○ History and physical examination form

❑ Have you arranged private transportation?

❑ Have you left extra time for commuting into Brighton? Travel to the hospital during morning commute hours may double normal travel times.

❑ You will be contacted the day prior to the surgery for expected arrival time.

Arrival Time:_____

PLEASE CALL IMMEDIATELY IF YOU CANNOT MAKE THIS APPOINTMENT.
(617) 254-3800 x2970 • Fax (617) 779-1509

Preparing your Child for Anesthesia and Surgery

Franciscan Hospital for Children



A Word to Parents

When a child needs surgery, parents may feel frightened for their youngster and a bit overwhelmed with the numerous hospital procedures.

Our anesthesia staff has compiled this brochure specifically for parents. It is designed to address parental concerns and to help parents prepare their child for surgery. We encourage you to review this information. Contact your surgeon, dentist or our Anesthesia Department with any questions.

Talking to your child about surgery

- Parents can prepare their child for surgery in several ways. First, it is important to let your child know in advance that he or she will be having surgery and to explain, in simple terms, what will actually happen during the day.

- If your child has never been to a hospital, many things adults regard as routine can be surprising and worrisome. For example, they will be asked to remove all of their own clothes and wear a hospital gown. Be honest about the experiences that may be unpleasant (such as having blood drawn) and offer reassurance about experiences that may be strange, but not painful (such as having x-rays taken or being transported to the operating room.) Our goal is to be as accomodating as possible to your child's concerns.

- If your child has been to the hospital before, he or she may have specific worries. Your child should be encouraged to talk about these concerns and be provided with accurate information.

- Among the most reassuring things you can tell your child about surgery is that it will soon be over. It is also helpful to explain the reason for the surgery. Parents can serve as good role models by remaining calm, positive and comforting before, during, and after their child's surgery.

Pre-Surgery Diet

Franciscan Hospital for Children

Your child's diet prior to surgery is very important. Anesthesia is safest when administered on an empty stomach. The dietary guidelines listed below must be followed to help ensure that surgery does not get postponed or canceled.

DIETARY GUIDELINES—VERY IMPORTANT!
PLEASE REVIEW THESE THE NIGHT BEFORE SURGERY!

- **6 Months to 3 Years:** Milk, formula or solids up to six hours before surgery.* Clear liquids up to two hours before surgery.
- **3 Years and Older:** Nothing to eat after midnight or up to eight hours before surgery.* Clear liquids up to two hours before surgery.

Clear liquids **include water, apple juice, ginger ale, plain Jell-O, and Pedialyte. Clear liquids **do not include** tea, coffee, milk, formula and juices with fruit pulp (grapefruit, orange and tomato.)*

MEDICATION

Children requiring medication should take them as instructed. The medication can be taken up to one hour before surgery with a small amount of clear liquid or plain Jell-O. You will be advised in advance about considerations pertaining to your child's specific medications. If there are questions or if you did not receive instructions, please call the Anesthesia Department.

ILLNESS

Please notify your surgeon or dentist if your child develops a cold, fever, asthma attack or any other illness within a week before surgery.

Registration

Franciscan Hospital for Children

Please arrive at the hospital at the time you are instructed. Approximately ***one hour before the scheduled time of surgery*** is needed for registration, examinations or other assessments by your child's nurses and doctors, including the anesthesiologist. Enter the hospital at the Outpatient Services Surgery entrance located adjacent to Parking Lot B and check in at the Ambulatory Registration desk.

Children under age 18 must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian bearing proof of guardianship (paperwork from court.) In the situation of unmarried parents, only the biological mother can give consent. Patients 18 years and older who are not competent to consent to receiving anesthesia or undergoing a surgical procedure must have their court appointed guardian give legal consent to the planned procedure, either by phone prior to the procedure, or in person the day of surgery.

IMPORTANT - Prior to the day of surgery, court issued guardianship papers must be provided to the anesthesia department at Franciscan Hospital for Children.

Post-Surgery Care

When your child's medical condition has stabilized you will be given verbal and written instructions for home care before you leave the hospital. Your child will then be discharged when you are comfortable with this plan.

Franciscan Hospital for Children—Our Ultimate Goal

Since 1949, it has been the hospital's mission to provide compassionate care and education to children with special health care needs. Together, we share the same goal: the health and wellbeing of each individual child we serve.

Affiliated with Boston University School of Medicine, and Boston University's Goldman School of Graduate Dentistry, we are licensed by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health and accredited by the Joint Commission.

Notes

Franciscan Hospital for Children

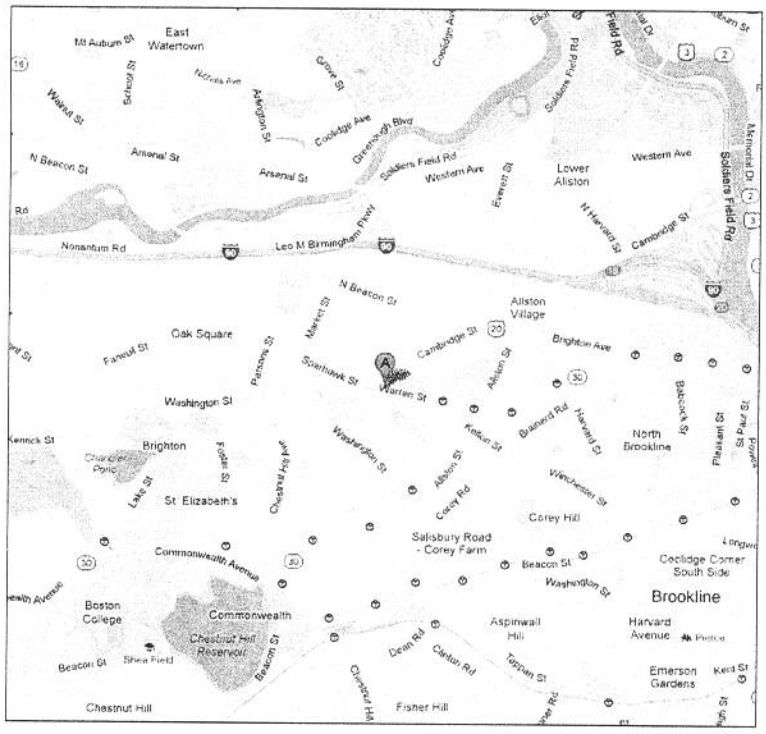
This section is for your use to make notes of questions, concerns or information you want to share with the care team prior to or upon arrival to the hospital on the day of the surgery.

PLEASE REMEMBER

- Dress your child in comfortable loose fitting clothing.
- Review and follow Dietary Guidelines.
- Have your child take his/her medications as instructed by their doctor or anesthesiologist.
- Have appropriate door-to-door transportation available to and from the hospital. **After anesthesia, patients need to go home by car (either taxi or private car.) You may not go home by public transportation. Please make the necessary arrangements prior to the day of surgery.**
- **Plan to be in the hospital for approximately 5-6 hours. It is important to leave the day open as unexpected scheduling changes can occur and we cannot predict the time you will arrive back home.**
- **YOU WILL BE CONTACTED FOR ARRIVAL TIMES THE DAY PRIOR TO THE PLANNED PROCEDURE. PLEASE DO NOT CALL AHEAD TO REQUEST THE ARRIVAL TIME.**

Directions

Franciscan Hospital for Children



Directions to Franciscan Hospital for Children

IF USING A GPS DEVICE PLEASE ENTER:

30 Warren St., BRIGHTON 02135
(Not Boston)

Free parking is available in 3 lots on the hospital grounds.

Parking lot B is most convenient for use by surgical patients.

Franciscan Hospital for Children Campus

