

# Pediatric Surgery

## Frequently Asked Questions

At Sweetwater Memorial, keeping your child comfortable and safe before, during and after surgery is as important to us as it is to you. Rest assured we'll provide your loved one with the best of care in a nurturing, family friendly environment. To help prepare your child for the experience, we have compiled some of our most-frequently asked questions.

### BEFORE SURGERY

- *Why can't my child eat or drink before surgery?*

Medications given may inhibit normal reflexes, allowing food or liquid in the stomach to be vomited and inhaled into the lungs.

- *What do I bring to the hospital on the day of surgery?*

It is a good idea to bring items that will help comfort your child like a favorite blanket or stuffed animal, and a bottle or cup for after surgery.

### DURING SURGERY

- *Why can't I go into the operating room with my child?*

An operating room is a sterile area requiring special clothing. This ensures that the operating room remains safe for your child, as well as our other patients.

- *How will my child go to sleep?*

Young children usually go to sleep with a combination of anesthesia gases and oxygen through a mask. After they are asleep, they may require an intravenous line (IV) for additional medication. Older children often receive anesthesia through an IV administered prior to surgery.

### IMMEDIATE POST-OP PERIOD

- *When will I be able to see my child after surgery?*

Your child will be taken to the recovery room immediately after surgery. During this time, your child will be closely monitored by the anesthesiologist and recovery room nurses. Once your child is awake, you will be notified, and you may come into the recovery room to be with your child. Most children are in recovery for 30 minutes to one hour.

- *What can I expect in recovery?*

Each child responds to anesthesia differently. It is normal for children to be disoriented, crying, restless and/or sleepy. This is common and does not always mean your child is experiencing pain. Most children do not remember this time period.

### PREPARATION FOR HOME

- *When can we go home?*

Once discharged from the recovery room, your child will continue their recovery in Same-Day Surgery. Your child will need to tolerate liquids and be comfortable in regard to pain. This is also when you will receive additional discharge instructions.

- *What if I have problems at home?*

Please consult your discharge instructions first. If you still have questions, please call your surgeon. If it is an emergency, go to the Emergency Room