

# 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 before and after surgery. A favorite blanket or stuffed animal and a bottle or cup (for after surgery) are examples.

### DURING SURGERY

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

An operating room is a sterile area requiring special clothing. You may accompany your child to the doors leading to the operating room. 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.

- *How long does it take to go to sleep with anesthesia?*

It usually takes less than a minute for patients to go to sleep when receiving anesthesia through a mask, and just a few seconds when receiving through an IV.

### 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 that you may come into the recovery room and be with your child.

- *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.

- *How long will my child be in recovery?*

Most children are in recovery for 30 minutes to one hour. This time varies depending on the surgery type and the medications your child has received.

### 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. Sometimes your child will need to urinate before going home. 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, please go to the Emergency Room