

Frequently Asked Questions.....

- **How do I prepare my child for an operation?**

Our CHILD LIFE DEPARTMENT offers a tour to prepare children for surgery. Reservations are required by calling 878-7681. We encourage you to bring your child on this tour so that they will be more familiar with the Same Day Surgery Unit, the Operating Room and the events that will take place on the surgery.

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

General anesthesia is safest when given on an empty stomach. During anesthesia, patients may have a tendency to vomit. **If any food or liquids get into the lungs it may cause pneumonia.** Therefore, following the diet guidelines are very important. Surgery is likely to be postponed or canceled if the instructions are not followed.

- **What if my child gets sick before surgery?**

Call your surgeon if your child develops a cough, fever, chest cold or asthma attack within 7 days before surgery.

- **What if my child is exposed to chickenpox?**

If your child has been exposed to any contagious disease within 21 days before surgery (such as chicken pox, measles, TB), notify your surgeon immediately.

- **I am not the child's parent; may I sign the surgical request?**

Only parents or legal guardians may sign the request for surgery. In all cases, legal proof of custody or guardianship must be provided on the day of surgery. If you are a foster parent, please contact your social worker for assistance.

- **How much time can I spend with my child?**

You will be with your child at all times before surgery. When your child is taken to the Operating Room, you will be shown where to wait. After the operation, your child will "wake up" in the Recovery Room and will be brought back to their room by a nurse. You will be with your child until you're ready to go home. If your child is staying overnight only one parent may stay.

- **Who can visit on the same day surgery unit?**

Children under the age of 14 years old are not permitted on the surgical unit. We strongly recommend that only 2 visitors be with the patients on the day of surgery.

- **What if I have questions once we get home?**

You will be given instructions for your child's care before you leave the hospital. You will also be given the telephone numbers of your surgeon and the Emergency Department. A staff member from the Same Day Surgery Unit will attempt to contact you within a few days after surgery to see how you and your child are doing.