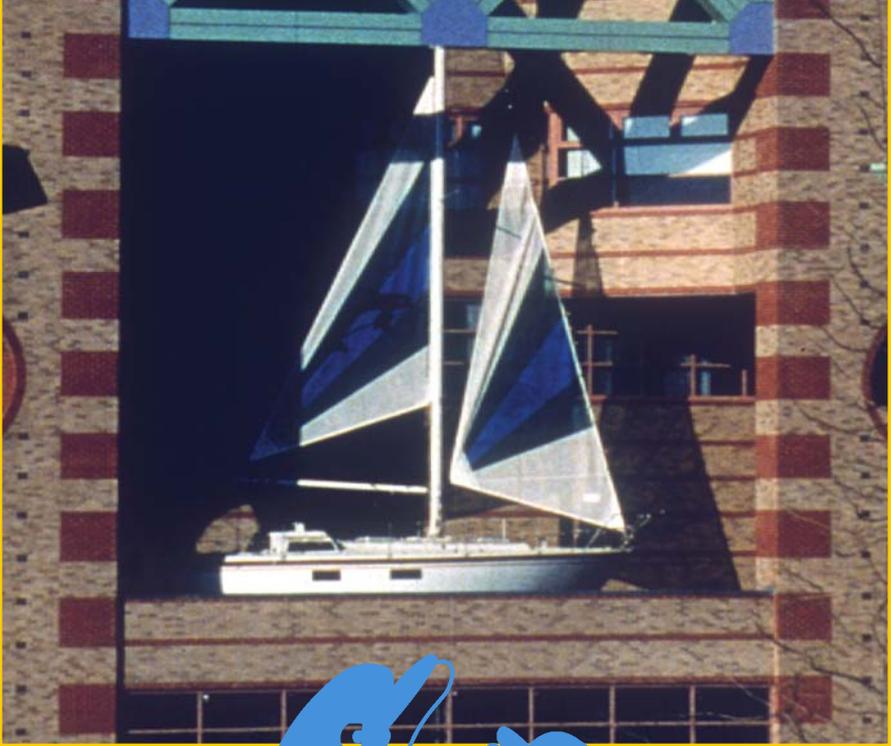


Getting Ready for Surgery - A Guide for Kids



Hasbro Children's Hospital

The Pediatric Division of Rhode Island Hospital

A Lifespan Partner

Going to the hospital for an operation can make anyone nervous. It is scary when you do not know what to expect. After you read this, you will know what is going to happen before, during and after your operation at Hasbro Children's Hospital.

On the day of your operation, an adult will go to the hospital with you. It might be your mom, your dad, your grandparent or an adult friend. It is nice to have something from home with you while you are at the hospital.



You can bring a special blanket, pillow or stuffed animal. You might also want to bring your own pajamas to wear home.

Make sure you put your name on the things you bring to the hospital so everyone knows they belong to you.



A team of friendly people will take care of you while you are at the hospital:

- **Nurses** will get you ready for your operation. A nurse will take your temperature and check your heart rate. The nurse will ask you if you're allergic to anything. Make sure to tell the nurse if you have any allergies. A nurse might write on you with a marker so the surgeon knows where to operate. It might tickle a little! There will be nurses in the operating room and recovery room with you.
- A **child life specialist** can answer any questions you have and help you find something fun to do while you wait.
- An **anesthesiologist** may give you medicine before surgery to help you fall asleep. The anesthesiologist stays with you during your operation to make sure you do not feel any pain.
- A **surgeon** is the doctor who performs your operation.
- **Doctors** make sure you get the best care and work with medical students who are training to be doctors.

- **Interns** and **residents** are doctors who are learning how to care for kids like you.



You will see other hospital staff members while you are here. All hospital staff members wear ID badges. If you don't know who someone is, please ask that person to tell you who he or she is.

You and the adult with you will get special bracelets to wear while you're at the hospital. These bracelets have your name on them. It is important to wear the bracelets until you leave the hospital. Often, a nurse or doctor will check your bracelet and ask you what your name is and what kind of an operation you are having.

There are lockers available to keep your things in while you are at the hospital. You will also get special clothes to wear. The adult with you may get special clothes to wear, too.

We have two waiting rooms—one has toys and games for younger kids and the other has crafts and video games for older kids. Someone may talk to you about your operation while you play in the waiting room.



You can choose how you want to get to the operating room. You can walk, ride in a wagon, or drive a car.

Before your operation, you will breathe special air so you will not feel anything during your operation. The air is

called anesthesia. The air comes out of a mask that you wear on your face during your operation. The mask comes in three colors: **PURPLE**, **RED** and **PINK**. When your operation is over, the anesthesiologist will stop giving you the air so you will wake up.

The operating room is very clean and has a lot of computers and bright lights. The computers and lights help the doctors and



nurses take good care of you. You will sleep on a special table during your operation.

Everyone in the operating room wears a mask. But don't worry, they are the same smiling people under the masks. They will be with you the whole time you are asleep.

When your surgery is over, you will be taken to the recovery room. Here, nurses will look after you for a while. Your parents or the adult who came with you will be able to visit you in the recovery room.

When you wake up, you may feel sleepy or a little sick from the anesthesia. Let the nurses know, so they



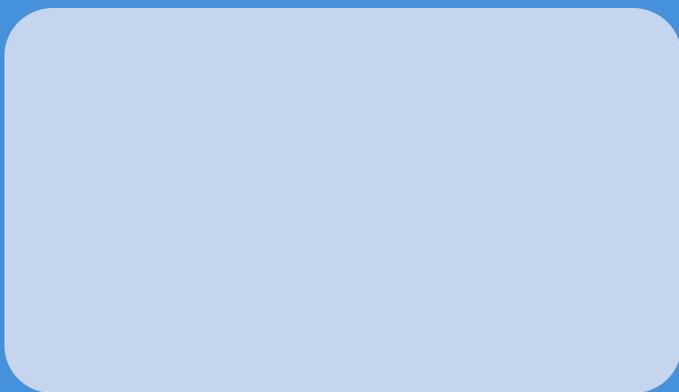
can help you feel better. You will have an IV in your hand. An IV is a tiny tube that is put in your vein to give your body a drink and medicine when you need it. The IV is taped to your hand so it won't move. Your nurse will take it out when you do not need it anymore.

You might have a bandage on the part of your body where you had your operation. Keep the bandage on and try not to get it wet.

When the anesthesia has worn off and you are fully awake, you will be taken to the recovery room. If you are staying overnight, nurses will take care of you in the recovery room until you are ready to be taken to a hospital room. If you are not staying overnight, nurses will look after you in the recovery room until you are ready to go home. If you feel sick or have pain at home, let your parent or guardian know so he or she can help you feel better.

Get well soon!





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