

# What to Expect at the Surgery Center - Pediatric Patients

## Pre-Operative Preparation

When you and your child arrive at the center, you will be greeted by the registration team. They will complete the admitting process for your child.

An armband will be placed on your child's wrist that identifies their name, birth date, and medical record number. Please check the armband and make sure the name is spelled correctly and the birth date is correct. If your child has reached menses, a urine pregnancy test will be done at the center prior to surgery.

Your child will be taken to the pre-operative area where you will be able to escort them to be prepared for surgery. Their physician will do a pre-op assessment and their weight will be taken. You will speak with the surgeon, anesthesiologist, and nurses. They can answer any last-minute questions you may have regarding the procedure and recovery at home.

As part of the surgical preparations, your child will be given a gown to wear. They may have an IV started in the pre-op area or the procedure room. This is necessary to administer fluids, pre-op antibiotics, and medications during and after their surgery. The surgical area will be prepped/clipped, and the surgical site will be marked with your surgeon's initials.

Consents for your child's surgical procedure and anesthesia will be signed by you, their legal guardian.

After your child has been taken to the procedure room, you will be asked to wait in the waiting area until the procedure is complete and they are recovering in the Post Anesthesia Care Unit (PACU).

## Moving to Recovery

Following surgery, your child will be taken to the Post Anesthesia Care Unit (PACU) or recovery room. Their time in the PACU will depend on their individual recovery time. Once your child begins to awake from anesthesia, you will be allowed to sit with them for the remainder of their time in the PACU.

During this time, their blood pressure and other vital signs will be closely monitored. Pain management measures will be started. Once your child is awake and if they do not have any nausea, they may be given ice chips and/or sips of fluids. Some type of cold therapy may be placed on their surgical incision. They may be instructed to do breathing exercises, which will aid in preventing pulmonary complications.

Once it is determined that your child can be safely discharged home, a nurse or you will assist them to get dressed and a nurse will assist them to be transferred to your car with their belongings.

## Frequently Asked Questions

**Q:** How many people can be with the patient during the pre-op process?

**A:** This depends on the surgery center's volume and size. Usually, 1–2 people per child can be with the patient during the pre-op process. You may call the center prior to arrival on the day of surgery to confirm. You can find the phone number to the surgery center at [BannerHealth.com/SurgeryCenters](http://BannerHealth.com/SurgeryCenters) or through your Medical Passport communications.

**Q:** What can the patient eat after they wake from anesthesia?

**A:** In the Post Anesthesia Care Unit (PACU), when your child is awake, they may be given a snack by their care team. Please refer to their physician's detailed discharge instructions prior to discharge with specific instructions for your child's specific needs when they arrive home.