Before Your Child’s Surgery (Preoperative Visits)

You will need to make a preop visit to Saint Francis Hospital within 2 weeks before your child’s surgery. Appointment times are daily, Monday through Friday. To make an appointment, call 918-494-7430. Phones are answered 8 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. Monday through Friday.

OR if the child is 17 years of age or less, the parents or guardians may visit the Children’s Hospital at Saint Francis website at www.sfh-childrenshospital.com and click on “Preparing Your Child for Surgery”. Fill out the pediatric anesthesia questionnaire at least three working days before the scheduled surgery date. If you are not able to complete the online questionnaire, call 918-494-7430 to schedule a preoperative visit. You will be told which entrance to use when you make the appointment.

Child Life Services offers Pre-Op Tours for patients and families. During the tour, you will have the opportunity to visit the waiting room, the holding room, and the pre-op areas. The Child Life Specialist will provide you with developmentally appropriate information regarding your child’s specific surgery. If you would like to schedule a tour, please call Child Life Services at 918-502-6333 at least a week before your child’s surgery.

When you arrive for the preoperative visit, parking is available in the Children’s Hospital parking lot on the North side of the hospital (from 61st street). If you are going to the main hospital, parking is available in lot B or C (see map) on the West side of the hospital (from Yale Avenue).

At this visit, your child will be evaluated for surgery. Please be ready to answer health history questions. A parent or legal guardian (with proof of guardianship) must be present to sign forms during the visit for children under 18 years of age.

Bring the following items:

1. A list of current medicines, including herbal and over-the-counter.
2. A list of allergies.
3. A photo ID of parent or guardian. (A copy of Guardianship form is required for legal guardian.)
4. Any lab work or other test results from another facility. These results should be brought to the visit or they may be faxed before the visit. Fax # (918) 494-1052. If lab work, an EKG, or X-rays are needed, these will be completed at this visit.
The Day Before Surgery

Please call the surgeon’s office the afternoon before your child's surgery is scheduled to find out what time to arrive at the hospital. If surgery is scheduled for a Monday or the day after a holiday, call the surgeon’s office the afternoon before the weekend or holiday. If surgery is planned for later than 7:15 a.m., you may be called to come in earlier. Be sure you can be reached by phone and have your child’s belongings ready to go.

Do not let your child eat or drink anything after midnight prior to your surgery; this includes gum, mints, candy, chewing tobacco, and snuff. Discourage smoking after midnight. Give only the medicines your doctor or anesthesiologist instructs you to give. Medicines may be swallowed with a sip of water.

Call the surgeon if your child develops a fever, cold, or rash. Any of these conditions may be a reason to postpone surgery.

The Day of Surgery

Dress your child in loose fitting clothes that are easy to remove. Please leave hair accessories, jewelry (all body jewelry used in piercings must be removed), and other valuables at home. If you bring contact lenses, glasses, or hearing aids, please bring the cases.

Upon arrival, please park in the Children’s Hospital Parking Lot (see map). Enter the hospital through the main entrance and check in at Admitting.

If the surgeon talked with you about returning home the day of surgery, and your child drives, a responsible person must come with your child and drive your child home after surgery. Your child may not use a bus or taxi to return home alone.

We request only two family members be present in the pre-surgical preparation areas. Additional family and friends may wait in the Family Waiting Room. Because waiting room space is limited, please limit the number of people who come with you for the surgery. Your child may bring a stuffed toy. Parents may also bring a bottle of juice or formula for infants to drink after surgery.

From the Admitting Desk, you, your child, and one additional family member or friend will be directed to Preop/Postop Care Unit. There, you will be directed to a room where your child will be prepared for surgery. The nurse will give your child a gown to wear and you will receive a bag for clothes that will be labeled with your child’s name. The bag will be returned to you when it is time to go home.

Your child’s blood pressure, pulse, breathing, and temperature will be checked. An intravenous line (IV) may be started to give fluids and medicines needed during surgery. A small amount of liquid medicine may be given to your child to swallow. Your child may become sleepy.

5. A copy of your insurance papers or card. Be prepared to make financial arrangements for surgery. A payment or deposit on your deductible will be requested. If you have no insurance, a cash deposit is necessary at this time. Personal checks, VISA, MasterCard, and American Express are acceptable. If additional information about financial arrangements is needed, call 1-918-494-1105.
Your family member or friend may stay with you until time for surgery. Then you will be shown to the waiting room. The doctor will call you when surgery is completed. You should remain in the waiting room until you receive this call.

**Your Child’s Recovery**

Immediately after your child’s surgery, your child will be taken to the recovery area. The nurse will be checking your child’s blood pressure, temperature, breathing, and incision. Your child may be very drowsy and want to sleep most of the day of the operation.

Please let the staff know if you feel your child is having pain. A pain scale will be used to help best determine your child’s need for pain medicines.

- For children who cannot yet speak, a “FLACC” scale is used.
  
  The FLACC scale is a behavioral scale for scoring pain for infants and young children who lack the verbal and/or cognitive skills necessary to report physical discomfort and pain intensity.

- For children three years of age and over, a “Faces” scale is used.

- For older children, a “0 to 5” number scale is used, with 0 meaning no pain and 5 meaning the worst possible pain.

These scales are guides. We recognize that you know your child best, and we welcome your input. Be assured that we want to relieve your child’s pain as much as possible.

![Pain Rating Scales](image_url)

Breathing Exercise

Deep breathing and coughing after surgery are important to keep the lungs working properly. Young children will be encouraged to blow bubbles, party horns or pinwheels. Older children may be asked to take deep breaths using a device called an incentive spirometer. Older children may also be asked to hold a pillow or rolled up towel firmly against the incision and breathe out normally. Then a deep breath is taken and held for a second or two and let out slowly. After two to three deep breaths, coughing is encouraged. These exercises should be repeated every two hours. Turning is also important to help keep lungs clear. Your child may have a sore throat and be slightly hoarse for two to three days from the breathing tube used during surgery.

Rest is very important to recovery. Please ask family members and friends to limit visits at first. We realize that children may worry about brothers or sisters in the hospital. Please ask your child’s nurse about arranging appropriate visiting times for sibling to visit.

Children Going Home the Same Day

When some of the anesthesia has worn off (each child reaches this stage in his or her own time), your child will be taken to the Outpatient Discharge area. You and a family member or friend may stay with your child here.

Your doctor will have some specific instructions to follow for taking care of your child when you go home. Your nurse will review these instructions and you will be given a written copy. Please ask your nurse if you have any questions.

A nurse will try to call you the next working day after surgery to check on your child’s progress and answer any questions you may have. If you think of questions after you are at home, call the Children’s Outpatient Surgery Department at 918-502-6160 from 5:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. If problems develop, call the surgeon. If necessary, come to the Trauma Emergency Center or go to any Emergency Center close to your home.

Children Admitted After Surgery

The time spent in the Recovery area will depend on your child’s needs. The IV will still be in place to give fluids and medicines. Your child will not have anything to eat or drink yet. When ready, you and your child will be taken to a pediatric hospital room. Breathing, pulse, blood pressure, temperature, and the incision will continue to be checked by the nurse. Your child will be encouraged to deep breathe and cough, and will be assisted with turning. For your child’s safety, crib and bed rails must stay up unless you are seated at the bedside.

Other information

If your child is scheduled to go home on the same day of surgery, you do not need to bring any personal care items. If your child is scheduled to stay in the hospital, please leave an overnight bag with extra clothes in your car. A hospital room will be assigned to your child while in surgery, and your family members or friends may bring this in later. Family will also be responsible for clothing and other belongings removed in preparation for surgery.
1

Park in the Children's Hospital Parking Lot

2

Go to the Pediatric Admitting Department to check in. Admitting is located in the main lobby on Level A. This is the Ground Level of the Children's Hospital Entrance.

3

Take the elevators up to the Pediatric Preop/Postop Care Unit located on Level 1.
Saint Francis Hospital Map - 6161 South Yale Ave - Tulsa, Oklahoma

This information is not meant to replace the advice of your Healthcare Professional. Be sure to ask questions and discuss your medical condition or any medical treatments with your doctor.