

# Welcome to PACU



## Post Anesthetic Care Unit

The Post Anesthetic Care Unit is where your child will recover after surgery or a special procedure.

You and your family are important to your child's recovery and our health care team.

## **What care will my child receive?**

A PACU nurse will closely monitor and observe your child as they wake from the anesthetic.

Your child will be given fluids and medication through an intravenous line.

## **When can I visit my child?**

After you speak with your child's doctor you will wait until you are invited to come into the PACU.

This gives the staff time to assess your child when they arrive, and time for your child to wake up.

Please wait in the OR/PACU Waiting Room. This is on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor in the blue section of the hospital. On weekdays, there are volunteers in the waiting room to help parents and families. If there is no volunteer, a PACU staff member will come to get you when your child is ready for a visit.

**We will reunite you with your child as soon as possible.**

## **Who can visit?**

For privacy and safety reasons, we are only able to let one parent (or guardian) visit in the PACU.

If both parents are at the hospital, please consider your child's needs when deciding which parent should be with your child.

## **Parents cannot 'switch' or take turns visiting in PACU.**

To visit the PACU you must be feeling well. Do not come in if you have a cold, the flu or have been exposed to an illness that could be spread to others.

Before you come into the PACU, please finish eating or drinking and wash your hands.



## **What can I expect as my child wakes up?**

Each child reacts differently to anesthesia. Some children cry and become restless when they wake up. They may seem disoriented or behave in a way that is not typical for them. Others may seem to sleep for an unusually long time. All of these responses are normal.

If you have any questions or concerns, please ask your child's nurse.

## **Will my child have pain?**

After surgery or a procedure, some discomfort is expected. Please let us know if you think your child is having pain.

The doctor orders pain medication according to your child's needs. If your child is having pain, they will be given the medication. The medication will make your child more comfortable, but may not take away all of the pain or discomfort.

The nurse will assess your child's pain and their response to the medication.

## **How long will my child stay in the PACU?**

The length of time your child will stay will depend on how comfortable your child is and how well they are doing after the anesthetic.

When your child is awake, comfortable and stable, they will be taken to the Same Day Surgery Unit or to a room in the hospital.

## **How can I help my child?**

We encourage you to take part in your child's recovery and care. Your child's nurse will give you information, support and guidance.

You can help your child with:

- reassuring words
- remaining calm
- gentle touching
- holding or rocking (if it is safe to do so)
- a favorite toy or blanket

Remember you are there to comfort your child. Allowing your child to rest will help with their recovery.

Please check with the nurse before giving your child anything to drink.

## **Please remember:**

We ask that you respect the privacy of other families in the PACU. This includes keeping personal information confidential.

To protect the privacy of other patients nearby, please do not take video or audio recordings of your child while they are in the PACU.

During a medical emergency, you may be asked to leave the PACU.

**We want you to feel as comfortable as possible during your visit.  
If you have any questions or concerns please talk with your  
child's nurse.**