

Care Before a Surgery or Procedure

Taking medicines

- **Do not** give ibuprofen (Motrin or Advil), aspirin or naproxen (Aleve) for at least 7 days before the surgery. These medicines can increase the risk of bleeding from the surgical site. It is OK to give acetaminophen (Tylenol), if recommended by your child's healthcare provider.
- If your child is taking an anticoagulant (like aspirin, Coumadin or Lovenox), call your provider for the stop date.
- Children under the care of a medical provider should ask for instructions on stopping or continuing medicines before the surgery or procedure.

Lower your child's risk of getting an infection

- Do not remove hair (shaving, waxing, depilatory creams, and lasers) near the surgical site area within 7 days before the surgery or procedure.
- Do not get a new piercing or tattoo within 7 days of the surgery or procedure.
- Bathe your child the night before or morning of surgery or procedure.
- If you were given a Hibiclens packet by your doctor, use it. Pay attention to the surgical site, but do not use it on the head or face.
- If you were given a prescription for Bactroban (Mupirocin), follow the instructions on the package for use.
- Remove nail polish from your child's fingers and toes.
- Remove all jewelry at home before coming to the hospital. This includes any piercings and body jewelry. If removing jewelry will result in the closure of the piercing, please contact a piercing professional to place non-metal jewelry.

Care for your child at home

- We will talk with you about activity, medicine, pain, surgical site care, diet and when the provider wants to see your child again.
- Please follow all eating and drinking instructions from the scheduling staff.

Pain after the surgery or procedure

After a surgery or procedure, your child may feel pain. We will partner with you and your child to prevent and relieve pain as much as possible. You know your child best. Take an active part in their recovery. No matter the level of your child's pain, believe they are hurting and respond right away. In addition to medicine, encourage coping tools to treat pain and provide support.

To Learn More

- Your child's specialty clinic
206-987-_____
- Ask your child's healthcare provider
- seattlechildrens.org

Free Interpreter Services

- In the hospital, ask your nurse.
- From outside the hospital, call the toll-free Family Interpreting Line, 1-866-583-1527. Tell the interpreter the name or extension you need.



Seattle Children's offers interpreter services for Deaf, hard of hearing or non-English speaking patients, family members and legal representatives free of charge. Seattle Children's will make this information available in alternate formats upon request. Call the Family Resource Center at 206-987-2201. This handout has been reviewed by clinical staff at Seattle Children's. However, your child's needs are unique. Before you act or rely upon this information, please talk with your child's healthcare provider.

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