

# Your Child's Upcoming Surgery



## Overview

Your child's day of surgery is just around the corner. It is normal to feel a little nervous. As the day nears, I wanted to take a minute to give you some important information that will hopefully help the day of surgery go smoothly.

## When should I arrive?

Although you may already know the surgery date, you may not yet know what time you should arrive at the hospital or where you should go. You should receive a phone call from one of our nurses on the business day prior to your surgery date. The nurse will then give you the important details about where to go and when exactly to arrive.

## When is the last time my child may have something to eat or drink before surgery?

In general, all patients having surgery should have an empty stomach at the time they go to surgery. This helps to make going to sleep and waking up safer and decreases the risk of complications. To be sure your child's stomach is empty, you should not allow your child to have any milk, formula or solid foods after midnight on the evening before surgery. You are allowed, however, to give your child clear liquids (such as water, apple juice or Pedialyte) up until 2 hours before you are scheduled to arrive at the hospital. It is very important to follow these guidelines carefully. Failure to do so may result in your surgery being delayed or cancelled.

## What if my child gets sick before surgery?

If your child becomes sick in the days before surgery, please let us know. In cases of very minor illness, it may still be possible to have the surgery as planned. However, your child's safety is our primary concern. If any member of our surgical team feels that it would be safer to wait until your child feels better, we may reschedule your surgery.

## How to contact us?

If you have a concern or a question as your surgery date approaches, I want to hear from you. For non-urgent questions, you may email me at [earl.gage@mercy.net](mailto:earl.gage@mercy.net). It may take up to 2 days for me to respond personally by email.

If you need more immediate assistance, please call our main office line at **314-251-4772**.