

Beaumont®

Center for Children's Surgery Goes Wild for Surgical Safari

Your child needs ear tubes to help with chronic ear infections. Your granddaughter needs her tonsils out to prevent a recurrent sore throat. Your friend's son has just been diagnosed with a hernia. Is there a program out there that can help alleviate the stress and fears of surgery for children; one that will make them feel comfortable on the day of surgery? Well, Surgical Safari is for you. Twice a month the *Center for Children's Surgery* hosts a Surgical Safari program that is geared to the child having surgery.

It all starts in the doctor's office. Information regarding the Surgical Safari program is given to the parents at the time surgery is scheduled. The child is invited along with siblings and their parents to participate in a tour of the pre-operative area and recovery rooms. The children go on a special tour into the operating room.

Upon arrival to their Surgical Safari experience, the children are registered given a boarding pass and dressed up in a surgical gown, hat and shoe covers. They see a video, which explains what to expect on the day of surgery and then the fun, begins. They are given a tour of the pre-operative area by the surgery center staff who explain what will happen. They describe how the child will change their clothes and a nurse, anesthesiologist and doctor all come and talk with them. Then they go to the wake-up room (recovery room) where they will need time to wake up from their special nap (anesthesia). Then they all travel down the Children's Center hallway, full of warm colors and lively graphics to the operating room. This tour helps to create a friendly, non-threatening environment for children of all ages.

While in the operating room the child will see the anesthesia machine, the muscle hugger (blood pressure) and the finger kisser (pulse oximeter). Children ask questions and are able to touch equipment that helps alleviate fears on the day of their surgery.

While the children are in the operating room the parents are in the waiting room with a nurse receiving instructions and also asking important questions about their child's big day. The program isn't just for the children. This is an all around program geared for all concerned.

After the tour, the children are given a special bag that has a surgical teddy bear and other fun things. This is a fun dress-up day. What a sight to see these happy children all dress up in anticipation of their special day.

So, if you, your family, friends or colleague's child needs to have surgery, have them sign up for Surgical Safari here at Royal Oak Beaumont. It is a wonderful experience filled with fun and information. Let's all go wild for the Surgical Safari program in the *Center for Children's Surgery* and roar with excitement for your upcoming visit. For information, please call our toll-free number 1.800.633.7377 to register.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Who will call me prior to my surgery?

You may receive up to three phone calls:

1. Patient Registration
2. Anesthesia Pre-Screening will call to obtain medical history, usually two to 10 days before surgery
3. The surgical pre-op area you are assigned to will call the day before surgery

What if I don't receive a phone call from Anesthesia Pre-Screening prior to my surgery?

They may not call due to your type of surgical procedure or medical history. In this case, you will be asked for medical history and medications in the pre-op area the day of surgery. If you have questions or concerns, you may call Anesthesia Pre-Screening prior to your surgery at 248-273-8100.

What about my medications?

During the screening process the nurse will review your medications and give you instructions whether to hold or take your medications.

What medications if any will I have to stop?

Aspirin, Plavix, Coumadin and most anticoagulants (blood thinners) and their generics are usually discontinued five to 10 days before surgery. Most herbals and vitamins may also need to be stopped. Please have a list of your medications along with doses available for when the screening nurse calls you.

What about jewelry and body piercings?

All jewelry and body piercings need to be removed before your arrival to the hospital.

When do I need to stop eating and drinking?

All patients should have nothing to eat or drink after midnight the night before surgery. This includes gum and mints. All medications you are instructed to take the morning of surgery should be taken with a small sip of water. If you smoke or drink alcohol, we encourage you to stop at least 24 hours prior to surgery.

What about my surgical arrival time?

- The day before surgery, a member of the Surgical Services team will call you after 11 a.m. and provide

you with your surgery time, arrival time and parking information. Your arrival time will be a minimum of two hours before the start of surgery, which will allow time to obtain blood work and ensure you are prepared for surgery.

- If you will not be at home the day before surgery, please call 248-898-0606 between 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. If your surgery is scheduled for a Monday, please call on Friday. If you have not received a phone call by 5 p.m. the day before your surgery, please call 248-898-1802.

Will my surgery begin on time?

You may be called to come in early if the surgeries prior to yours are completed early. In rare instances surgeries may not begin on time. This usually is a result of an emergency surgery preceding the scheduled cases.

What if I should become sick and my surgeon's office is closed?

You may call Surgical Services at 248-898-1802.

Why must I bring a companion to the hospital?

If your procedure will be done as an outpatient, a companion must come with you, stay with you the entire time and drive you home. Your surgery may be cancelled if you do not have a companion to drive you home. You are advised to have a companion stay with you for 24 hours after surgery.

If you do not have a companion to drive you home, an alternative is to contact Beaumont's Helping Hands to assist you: 248-551-0776. If you have a legal guardian who cannot be present on admission, please call 248-898-5504 in advance to make arrangements for necessary signatures.

What if I have financial or insurance questions?

Please call Patient Registration at 248-898-3558.

Where do I go when I come to the hospital and where can I park?

The pre-op area will give you instructions when they call with your surgical time. They will instruct you as to what entrance and where to park. Parking is free in the parking decks and valet parking is available at the entrances for a fee.

We hope you find this information helpful. Please call our pre-screening department if you have any additional questions or concerns:

248-273-8100 or 248-273-8177.

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