

Things to Know When Your Child is in PACU (Post-Anesthetic Care Unit)

Once your child's surgery is done, they will be taken to the **Post-Anesthetic Care Unit (PACU)** to wake up from the medicine that made him or her sleep through the surgery.

The PACU is also called the recovery room, the "popsicle" room, and the "wake up" room.

- Nurses will closely monitor your child as he or she wakes up.
- You may be asked to come into the PACU to be with your child once he or she wakes up. It doesn't necessarily mean anything is wrong, your child may just need your comfort and reassurance.
- If you are needed in PACU, you will be notified. A staff member (or volunteer) will come get you and will bring you to your child's bedside in the PACU.
- To prevent spreading infection, you'll be asked to wash your hands when you come in to and leave the PACU. Feel free to ask staff to wash their hands.
- If you don't want to come into the PACU, please let the staff member know or ask another family member to go.
- Usually, only 1 adult comes into the PACU at a time.
- It is important to have something to eat and drink while your child is having surgery to avoid feeling faint or uneasy if you are asked to be in the PACU

Things to Know While You're in the PACU

- Please don't wake your child. Children are calmer if they wake up on their own.
- Speak softly and calmly. Reassure your child. If your child is fussy, it's okay to comfort him or her. Your child may be upset and/or agitated for up to 1 hour after surgery.
- Respect the privacy of other patients and families in the PACU.
- Please don't use your cell phone. Make sure it's off or set to vibrate. Leave the PACU if you have to make or take a call.
- If there's an emergency in PACU, follow staff's instructions.
- If you feel faint, sick to your stomach, or uneasy at any time, please sit down and tell your child's nurse.
- It is ok to feel emotional or upset when you see your child in PACU. If you would like to take a break or have a different family member come in to PACU please let your child's nurse know.
- If you feel your child is having pain or needs something, let your child's nurse know; you're a partner in your child's care.