

Things I wish I had known before my child's surgery...

Parents on the Surgery Family Advisory Council would like to share these tips and resources they've learned along the way.

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Cook Children's has a retail pharmacy on the first floor, next to the Emergency Department. You can have your child's medicines filled at the pharmacy or delivered to you in the waiting room. If you'd like to pick them up before you leave, let your nurse know as soon as possible. The pharmacy's phone number is 682-885-6913.



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In addition to providing play activities, a Child Life specialist can also:

- Prepare and support you and your child for surgery.
- Talk with patients and siblings about diagnoses, treatment and other changes.
- Help celebrate birthdays and milestones.

You can ask to talk to a social worker for help with:

- Job, lodging and child care issues.
- Medical insurance and/or other financial concerns.
- Problem-solving, community resources and crisis intervention.

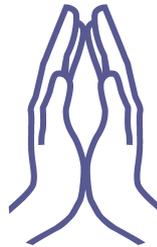
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Within 30 days following your child's surgical procedure, a Cook Children's staff member will call and check on your child. Cook Children's takes part in a national program that measures the quality of patient care and outcomes. The information provided by parents helps Cook Children's.



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Your surgeon will tell you how long your child's surgery will take, but please remember the time required both before and after the surgery. Both of these phases take time and are important stages of the process. Don't be alarmed if the time in surgery is longer than discussed.

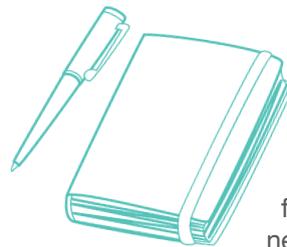


There is a small chapel on the second floor by the elevators. The chapel is open 24 hours a day and Catholic masses are held Fridays at noon. Chaplains are also available by calling 682-885-4030.

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The surgical staff will ask you several times about your child's surgical procedure, history and medications. This is done so the staff feels confident that the parents have a good understanding of the surgery being performed and that all members of the team agree. Also, many checks are in place to ensure nothing in the child's history or medication list have been missed or left out.



Keep a notebook to write down questions and information about your child's surgery and recovery.

You can get a FREE medical planner from the Family Health Library, located next to the Child Life Zone, on the first floor of the medical center or by calling 682-885-3060.

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You know your child best! Share your concerns with the surgery staff and surgeon. If you don't feel like you're being heard, ask to see the nurse manager or call a patient representative at 682-885-4367.

You can schedule a tour prior to your child's surgery. To schedule a tour, call 682-885-7200 or submit an online request at cookchildrens.org.

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