



A trip to the hospital doesn't always mean a lengthy stay. For certain procedures, Mercy Children's Hospital offers outpatient surgery, so your child can be treated and released the same day. This minimizes the time your child is away from family and home. It can also reduce the cost of a longer hospital visit.

Getting to the Mercy Outpatient Surgery Center:

- **Enter Muckerman Drive from Ballas Road.**
- **Park on the street level of the Muckerman Parking Garage.**
- **Cross Muckerman Drive and enter the Surgery Center through the revolving doors.**



is scheduled for surgery at

**Mercy Hospital
Outpatient Surgery Center**

Date:

Time of surgery:

Please arrive at:

Have nothing to eat or drink after:

Surgeon's name:

Surgeon's phone number:

Mercy Children's Hospital

615 S. New Ballas Road
St. Louis, MO 63141
314-251-6000

STL_23588 (6/18/12)

Pediatric Outpatient Surgery



at Mercy Children's Hospital

*A guide for
parents*





Tips for a Successful Visit

Be patient. A hospital visit may overwhelm a small child. On the morning of the procedure, try to understand your child's feelings.

Be honest. Children need to know what to expect during a hospital visit. Because your child trusts you, this explanation should come from you. Let your child know you'll be there to provide comfort and support. **Be prepared.** A familiar object may help your child feel more comfortable in the hospital. Allow your child to bring a favorite toy, book or game. For infants and toddlers, please bring an empty bottle or cup.

We want your child's visit to Mercy Children's Hospital to be as pleasant as possible. For more information about outpatient surgery or to arrange a tour of the facility with a Child Life Specialist, please call us at 314-251-7378.

Pediatric Outpatient Surgery

Preparing for Surgery

Report illness: If your child becomes ill within five days before surgery, please call your surgeon. It may be necessary to reschedule the surgery.

Restrict food and beverages: At midnight the evening before surgery, stop all food including candy, gum, formula and cereal, as well as certain drinks, including orange juice, milk and dairy products.

If your child is breastfeeding: Infants may breastfeed up until three hours prior to arrival at the Surgery Center (not the scheduled surgery time).

Other beverages: Your child may drink clear fluids until two hours prior to the time you

are told to be at the Surgery Center (not the scheduled surgery time). Clear fluids include water, apple juice, clear juices without pulp, soda and Pedialyte®.

If you have questions before you arrive for surgery, call 314-251-6458, Monday through Friday, 5:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. After hours, please contact your surgeon.

The Day of Surgery

Arrival: Please arrive at the Surgery Center at the time specified by your surgeon. (See back of brochure.) Register with the receptionist at the front desk.

PLEASE BRING WITH YOU:

- Your child's insurance card.
- Insurance forms that have been completed and signed.
- Your co-pay, if required by your insurance policy.

- Another adult to assist with your child while you sign consent forms. (These forms must be signed by a parent or legal guardian.) We request that only two adults accompany your child; please do not bring other adults or children.

Anesthesia: The administration of an anesthetic is a routine procedure that an anesthesiologist will explain to you and your child. A preoperative sedative may be ordered. Feel free to ask questions or discuss concerns with the anesthesiologist.

Off to the Operating Room: When the time for surgery arrives, a nurse or anesthesiologist will take your child to the operating room. We ask that you stay in the Surgery Center, where your surgeon will meet with you following the procedure.

Recovery: Following surgery, your child will be taken to the recovery room and closely monitored. You and your child will be reunited as soon as possible.

Homeward Bound: Your child will return to a private room in the Surgery Center, where a nurse will meet with you, answer your questions and provide post-operative and home care instructions. Your child may leave when fully awake, reasonably comfortable, and able drink and retain liquids.

For Your Convenience

Retail Pharmacy: Mercy offers an on-site pharmacy, so you can easily fill a prescription for your child, if needed, following surgery. Please submit your required co-pay at the time of service.

Food Services: Vending machines are located in the Surgery Center waiting area. The Mercy Café is located directly above the Surgery Center.