

VISITING YOUR CHILD IN RECOVERY

PARENT/GUARDIAN INFORMATION SHEET

VISITING YOUR CHILD IN THE RECOVERY ROOM

This helpful information is for parents/guardians who wish to visit their child in the Recovery area. Recovery is a vital part of your child's theatre experience.

Following the operation, your child will be transferred to Recovery. This area is close to the theatre and is staffed by nurses trained in the care of patients recovering from surgery.

WHEN MAY YOU VISIT?

- Your child will be assessed by a Registered Nurse upon arrival into Recovery
- You may be asked to come into Recovery when your child is stable and awake. This may not always be possible depending upon the number and condition of other patients.
- Only one (1) parent/guardian may visit their child in Recovery due to limited space, and please understand that at any time it may be necessary for the staff to ask you to leave.
- You will be required to wear a gown, hat and over-boots in the Recovery area.
- You are more than welcome to bring your child's favorite toy or blanket, and a drink - i.e. bottle etc. with you.

WHAT TO EXPECT

Your child may be restless, crying, unco-operative, disorientated or asleep following an anaesthetic. These are all normal responses.

You may find that your child has:

- **a drip** (intravenous therapy)
- **an oxygen mask**
- **a dressing** to an operation site
- **a finger probe**
- **a blood pressure cuff**, depending on age

Children are often restless, upset or crying during the recovery stage. It only usually lasts for a short time and your presence will reassure them and help at that time. They may also experience some nausea or vomiting, and if necessary, medication can be given to help with this. Other side effects, which will resolve quickly, may include a sore throat and soreness at the drip site.

The drip is used to give your child fluids because they have fasted prior to the procedure and to allow access for giving medication or pain relief if required.

The oxygen mask provides your child with oxygen following an anaesthetic while they are still a little drowsy. Extra oxygen is given to maintain the desired oxygen levels in the blood.

The finger probe is used to monitor the pulse rate and the oxygen levels in the blood.

The blood pressure cuff is used on older children to have their blood pressure monitored in Recovery.

The length of time that your child spends in Recovery depends on several factors;

- the type of anaesthetic used,
- whether your child has pain or has required any pain relief,
- whether your child is vomiting or still sleeping.

A patient's stay in Recovery is generally for a minimum of half an hour. They will be closely monitored until awake enough to be transferred back to the ward or the Day Surgery Unit.

PATIENT CONFIDENTIALITY

Patient confidentiality is a priority at Albury Wodonga Private Hospital. No information concerning other patients will be discussed and therefore parents/guardians are asked to please consider the privacy of other patients.

If you have any questions regarding your child's condition, please ask the nursing staff.

WHAT ABOUT YOU?

Even though your child will not be allowed to eat or drink before surgery it is a good idea for parents/guardians to have breakfast or lunch. While you are waiting for your child to come out from surgery have a drink and something to eat as it is not unusual for a parent/guardian to feel unwell or a little queasy in the Recovery area. Please ensure you tell the nursing staff and they can help you.



**Albury Wodonga
Private Hospital**

Part of Ramsay Health Care