

Children having surgery

Information for parents



Welcome

Welcome to Norwest Private Hospital. Our aim is to ensure a smooth and positive experience for you and your child. If at any stage you are concerned or have a question, please do not hesitate to ask one of our staff.

What to expect

The day prior to surgery, the hospital will call you with your child's admission time and when they need to stop eating and drinking. Fasting can be a very difficult time for you and your child. For your child's safety, it is important to follow the fasting guidelines that have been given to you.

You may have a short wait prior to your child's procedure. The admission time allows our nursing staff to prepare you and your child for their procedure.

Our patient area is quite small and as we have many patients and their carers coming through the unit, we ask that you have only one other support person (if necessary) with you during your child's admission to ensure we maintain everyone's privacy.

What to bring

- Medicare card and any other private health insurance information
- Personal items if you are intending to stay overnight with your child
- Your child's favourite toy(s)/security blanket
- A dummy if your child has one
- Spare nappies and wipes
- Any medications your child is taking, including asthma puffers and Epipen
- Clean short sleeve, two piece pyjamas with no metal clips or zips
- Bottle and formula if required

Admission

On arrival to the hospital you will be directed to either the Surgical Admission Centre (SAC) or the surgical ward. One parent or guardian, will be allowed to go to Theatre and be present in Recovery with your child. Any other support persons are most welcome to wait in the small waiting room adjacent to the SAC or in the hospital foyer.

You will be taken into Theatre with your child and once they are off to sleep you will be escorted out and asked to wait for a phone call from the nurses. Please know that we will make every possible effort to reunite you with your child as soon as possible.

In Recovery

When you arrive at the Recovery Room, you will be asked to stay with your child. Please remember for safety reasons and confidentiality that only one parent or guardian is able to be present.

Mobile phones are not permitted to be used in Theatre and Recovery, please ensure you have everything you need when you are called to come to Recovery.

Every child wakes up differently, some children wake up quickly, others are slow and some children become distressed when waking up. You will be able to calm and reassure them. Children usually settle and recover within 30 minutes. Please speak to staff if you are concerned.

Your surgeon may visit with you in Recovery or when you are transferred to Day Surgery/ward to let you know about the procedure.

For any questions, please do not hesitate to ask any of our friendly staff.



Overnight stay

One parent must stay with a child overnight if they are under 16 years of age. Parents of children over 16 are also welcome to stay but this is not mandatory.

Please limit the number of visitors as your child needs to rest and recover.

There are call bells in each room. If you feel you need the nurse at any stage, please press the buzzer. If you need help in an emergency, please press the red emergency button.

A pantry with some light snacks and refreshments are available in the ward. Children are not permitted in the pantry. Please ask staff for assistance.

The accompanying parent will be provided with meals during their stay.

Please do not take hot drinks into your child's room.

Discharge time is usually 9.00am, however your child may need to wait to be seen by the doctor prior to going home.

Discharge

Once your child is able to go home, staff will go through the care requirements as per your doctor's instructions. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to ask our staff. If your child needs any medications to go home, you may be provided these by our Pharmacist or given a script for you to fill at a Pharmacy of your choice.

If you have any concerns following discharge please contact your specialist or GP.

How you can help

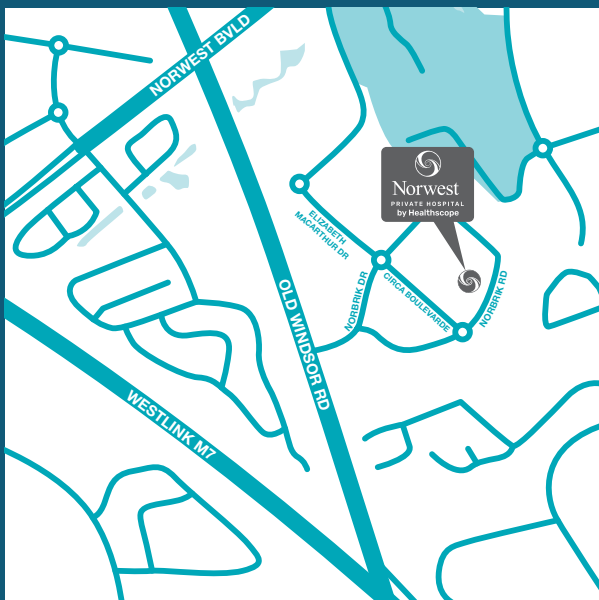
Hospitalisation causes stress and anxiety for many parents and sometimes the safety precautions that we routinely take at home can be overlooked in an unfamiliar environment.

There are many ways you can help promote fall safety in hospital:

- Help your child become familiar with their new hospital environment
- Maintain physical contact with your baby when bed rails are down
- Put bed side rails up when leaving your baby's or child's bedside, even for short periods of time
- Inform nursing staff when you are leaving your child's room
- If you need to heat up a bottle, please ask our staff. We do not permit use of microwaves or hot water to heat bottles. A bottle warmer is available for use.

We encourage you to be involved in your child's stay as much as possible.

We look forward to partnering with you in caring for your child at Norwest Private Hospital.



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