There may be a number of reasons why your child must undergo surgery. Regardless, your child's medical team has determined that surgery is the best course of treatment for his or her individual condition.

What can I do to prepare my child for surgery?
Providing emotional and physical support to children before surgery has been shown to help alleviate fears and anxiety.

Preoperative Questions: If you would like to have a more in-depth discussion at any time before your child's surgery date you may contact the Pediatric ENT Office at 708.684.3133.

Our Child Life Specialist may be contacted at 708.684.4142 for additional tips to help you and your child prepare for surgery.

Surgery Scheduling: Surgery is typically scheduled in person on the day of your clinic appointment. If you need to make a change to your scheduled date or cancel a surgery date, please contact our office as soon as possible at 708.684.3133.

Time of Surgery: You will receive a call after 3 pm the day before surgery and will be given a time to arrive at the hospital and a time when your child should stop eating and drinking. If you will not be at home the day before your child's surgery, please call Day Surgery at 708.684.3131 after 5 pm Monday through Friday.

Please do not call our office to inquire about the time of your child's surgery. If you have not heard from Day Surgery by 5 pm, please call 708.684.3131.

Insurance: It is very important to notify your insurance company about your child's surgery. Please verify the extent of coverage. You will be responsible for any amount not covered by your insurance company. Our office will contact your insurance company to verify pre-certification and/or prior authorization requirements, but it is a good idea to also check yourself.

Preoperative Testing: A physical exam will need to be completed by your pediatrician prior to surgery. Further testing may be ordered during this visit. This should be scheduled within 30 days of surgery. The surgery cannot be completed without this exam.

What can my child eat or drink before surgery?
Please do not allow your child to eat solid food or chew gum after midnight the night before surgery unless your doctor has instructed you otherwise. Day Surgery will provide age-specific instructions regarding liquid consumption/when to stop feedings for infants.
What if my child catches a cold?

While there really is no way to prevent your child from getting colds and other contagious diseases, we recommend avoiding unnecessary exposure to large crowds and people who are ill before your child’s surgery. It is not necessary to keep your child out of school.

If your child develops a cough, runny nose, fever, chest congestion or any other signs of illness within four days of the scheduled surgery day, please call our office at 708.684.3133 to discuss the possibility of rescheduling surgery. In addition, please call us if your child is exposed to any communicable disease, such as measles, mumps or chicken pox.

Can I give my child any medications before surgery?

In general, do NOT give your child aspirin, ibuprofen (Advil, Motrin), Excedrin, Aleve or Naproxen within two weeks before and after surgery unless you have discussed this specifically with your pediatrician and your ENT surgeon. Do NOT give Vitamin E or any herbal supplement within two weeks before and after surgery. Acetaminophen (Tylenol®) CAN be taken before and after surgery. Please give regular medications with a SIP of water before surgery as instructed by your pediatrician. Inform our team and your pediatrician if your child is on blood thinners such as Coumadin, Plavix, Pradaxa or Lovenox. If your child takes insulin, discuss dosage adjustments with your pediatrician.

PLEASE NOTE: AN EXCEPTION TO THE ABOVE MEDICATION RULES EXISTS FOR CHILDREN SCHEDULED FOR A TONSILLECTOMY, ADENOIDECTOMY, AND/OR EARTUBES. IBUPROFEN SHOULD BE USED AFTER SURGERY IN THESE CASES, AS DETAILED IN THE POST OPERATIVE INSTRUCTION SHEET.

DAY OF SURGERY

Our goal is to ensure your child’s health and prevent any complications during or after surgery. If your child shows any symptoms of a respiratory infection or any other illness, the surgery may be postponed.

Any child having surgery must be accompanied by his or her parent or legal guardian on the day of surgery. This is essential for the consent process. Any child who is not accompanied by a legal guardian cannot have surgery. Please notify our office at 708.684.3133 immediately if the child is under custody of the Department of Child and Family Services.

Surgery in the Medical Center
Parents should park in Lot E located on Kilbourn Avenue between 93rd and 95th Street, and walk across Kilbourn to enter through Entrance F. There will be a Guest Services representative at the reception desk who can assist you with getting to Day Surgery. You will be directed to take elevator D to the 3rd floor. Once you are on the 3rd floor look for the “Day Surgery” registration desk to check in. After checking in at the desk you will be asked to wait until the surgical staff is ready to escort you in the presurgical area.

Surgery in the Outpatient Pavilion
On the day of surgery, drive into Parking Tower D on the west side of Kilbourn Avenue across the street from the Outpatient Pavilion at 95th street. Use the covered, second-level pedestrian bridge to walk to the Outpatient Pavilion and the second-floor surgery center desk to check in. Free valet service also is available in front of the Outpatient Pavilion on the ground level from 6 am to 6 pm Monday through Friday.

OUR GOAL IS TO ENSURE YOUR CHILD’S HEALTH AND PREVENT ANY COMPLICATIONS DURING OR AFTER SURGERY.
What happens after my child gets checked in?
A member of the surgical team will call the patient back to the pre-surgical area. Your child will be prepared for surgery in this area. Your child will need to change into a hospital gown and vital signs will be taken (temperature, blood pressure, heart rate and respiratory rate). A brief history and physical will be done. The surgeon and the anesthesiologist will meet with you to answer any questions you may have before your child goes into surgery. Depending on his or her age, an oral medication may be given to help your child relax before being taken to surgery. For children older than 10, an IV will be started in pre-surgical area, as well. For younger children, the IV (if needed) will be placed in the operating room once the child is under anesthesia. When the operating room is ready, the nurse will come and bring your child to the entrance of the operating room. The family can walk with the patient up to the doors of the operating room, at which time the family can give hugs and kisses to the patient.

What happens in the operating room before surgery?
Once in the operating room, your child will receive additional anesthesia through a breathing mask. Most children are asleep within five minutes. Nurses and surgical staff will then set up the equipment for your child’s operation.

Where do I wait while my child is in surgery?
Families are encouraged to wait in the Surgery Family Waiting Room on the 3rd floor of the hospital or in the waiting room on the 2nd floor of the Outpatient Pavilion. In order to ensure patient privacy, a number will be assigned to your child’s case. A screen in the waiting room will display all the case numbers and give general updates about the surgery. Cell phone use is allowed in the surgical waiting area. Snacks and beverages are also available in the waiting area in the hospital and on the ground floor of the Outpatient Pavilion.

RECOVERY AT HOME

Before bringing your child home, you will receive detailed instruction from one of the nurses regarding wound care, medication and follow-up visits.

Please follow the post-operative instruction sheet that you were given which is specific to your child’s surgery and includes details about what to expect and what to avoid.

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**DIRECTIONS**

**From the south:**
Take Harlem Avenue, Cicero Avenue or Pulaski Road to 95th Street. From Harlem or Cicero, proceed east on 95th. From Pulaski, travel west.

**From the west:**
Take the Tri-State Tollway (I-294) north or south and exit east onto 95th Street. Follow 95th to Kostner Avenue.

**From downtown Chicago:**
Take the Dan Ryan Expressway (I-94) south to the 95th Street exit and proceed west. Or, take the Stevenson Expressway (I-55) to Cicero Avenue. Proceed south on Cicero to 95th Street, then east on 95th to Kostner Avenue.

**From the north:**
Take the Kennedy Expressway (I-90) downtown to the Dan Ryan Expressway (I-94). Follow the Dan Ryan south to the 95th Street exit and travel west on 95th Street. Follow 95th Street west to Kostner Avenue.

**From the northwest suburbs or O’Hare Airport:**
Take the Tri-State Tollway (I-294) south and exit east on 95th Street. Follow 95th Street to Kostner Avenue.

**From Hammond Indiana or Michigan:**
Take I-80/94 west to the Tri-State Tollway (I-294) north. Take the Cicero Avenue north exit. Follow Cicero Avenue north to 95th Street. Proceed east on 95th to Kostner Avenue.
You will receive a phone call from the hospital the day before the surgery, after 3 pm, to let you know the following:

- What time the surgery is scheduled
- Where to go: Main Hospital or Outpatient Pavilion
- When to arrive
- Most importantly: When to stop eating and drinking

Please note that the entire hospital's operating room schedule is not developed until the day before the surgery. If you don’t hear from the hospital by 5 pm, please call Day Surgery at 708.684.3131. Please call our office at the number below with any additional questions or concerns.

Thank you,
Pediatric ENT Team
708.684.3133
Date of Surgery: __________________________________________________________________________________

You will receive a call from Day Surgery the night before surgery and will be given a time to arrive at the hospital and a time when your child should stop eating and drinking. If you will not be at home the day before your child’s surgery, please call Day Surgery at 708.684.3131 after 5 pm Monday through Friday.

Be sure to call your insurance company for precertification for surgery (or your primary care doctor if you have an HMO). The insurance representative can contact our office at 708.684.3133 if there are any questions that you cannot answer.

Please call the Pediatric ENT Surgery office at 708.684.3133 if your child has any symptoms the day before surgery such as fever, runny nose, cough/congestion, vomiting, diarrhea, diaper rash, thrush, or if your child is exposed to any communicable disease, such as measles, mumps or chicken pox.

Please do not schedule your child’s immunizations during the week before surgery.

If you have any additional questions related to your child’s surgery, please feel free to call the Pediatric ENT Surgery office at 708.684.3133.