


# A Child's Day in Surgery Main Operating Room



Children come to the hospital for many different reasons – because they are sick, to have a special test, for a doctor visit, or to have surgery or an operation. Did you know that surgery and operation mean the same thing? Surgery is how the doctor helps a part of the body to heal or work better.



If you are scheduled for surgery in the Main Operating Room at Northwest Community Hospital, this is where you will enter. It will look like this.



This is where  
your family can ask the  
receptionist about you.



This is where your family  
will wait for you while you  
are having surgery so they  
can stay close to you.

You will be given your own bed and space with chairs for your family to wait with you. While you are here, you will meet many new people, including your doctors and nurses. Their job is to take care of you while you are here.





Your nurse will give you hospital pajamas that might look like this.




Your nurse will also help you put on a name bracelet that you will wear on your wrist. This is so your doctors and nurses know who you are while you are in the hospital.





Your nurse will show you these faces and ask you to choose the face that best shows how you are feeling after your surgery. Some look very happy, and some look sad. The nurse can better help you after knowing how you feel.




Your nurse will check how warm your body is by taking your temperature near your ear.




Your blood pressure will be measured using a special arm cuff that fits snugly around your arm and gives it a hug. This tells your doctor how your heart is working.

Your nurses and doctors will also ask your parents questions to help learn more about you.



You will meet your sleep doctor, called an anesthesiologist. This doctor will give you special sleep medicine to make sure you are sleeping during your surgery. Once your surgery is over, the doctor will stop giving you the sleep medicine, and you will wake up.





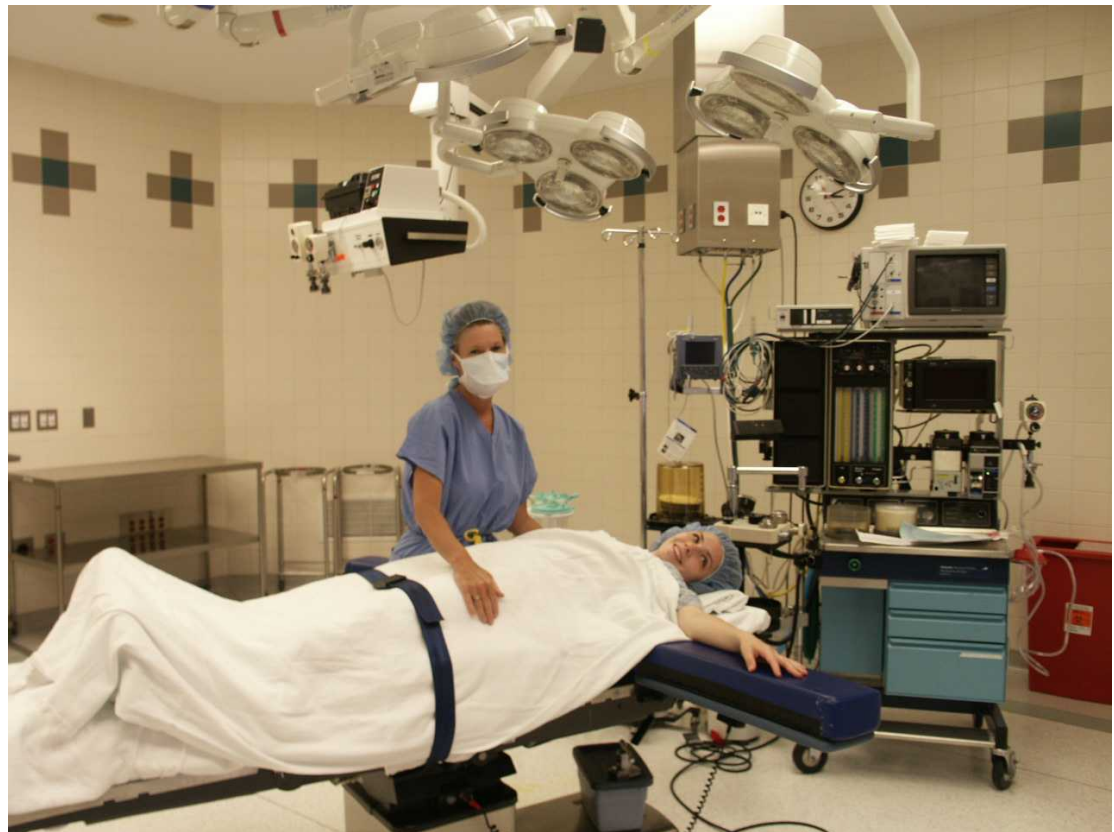
The doctors and nurses taking care of you wear special blue or green clothes called scrubs. They also wear hats, masks, gloves and shoe covers to protect you from germs. Even when doctors and nurses have masks on, you can still see their eyes and hear them talking to you.



When it's time for your surgery, your nurse will give you a hat to wear. Then you will get a ride to the operating room on your bed with wheels. If you want, bring a favorite toy or stuffed animal with you.



Your doctors and nurses will go with you to the operating room. You may see some bright lights and TV screens. Your doctor may move you to a bed without wheels. The room will be cold, but you will be given a warm blanket.



Your doctor will put a soft clip on your finger called a pulse oximeter. This measures how much oxygen is in your body. Your doctor will also put stickers on your chest and arms. These stickers, called cardiac leads, measure how your heart is working. None of these things hurt.





The sleep doctor will put a mask over your nose and mouth and ask you to take deep breaths. The sleep medicine will make your whole body feel calm. When you start to feel tired, it's okay to go to sleep. There will be many doctors and nurses taking care of you and making sure you are comfortable.




See if you can practice taking some deep breaths.



When your surgery is over, you will start to wake up in the recovery room, where nurses will take good care of you. Your family will also be brought in to be with you.

Some children say that as they start to wake up, their throat feels a little sore and their stomach feels a little sick, but this will soon go away. You will slowly be able to drink and eat as you become more awake.





When you wake up, there will be a plastic tube taped to your hand called an IV, which stands for “into a vein.” It’s a tiny tube that brings water and medicine into your body. Your IV can be placed on your hand while you are sleeping so you don’t feel it. Before you go home, the nurses will take the tube off and give you a bandage.



When you are feeling better, and your doctors and nurses think you are ready, you will be able to go home. You may get a ride to the door in a wheelchair if you like. Take good care of yourself and stay healthy!

