

Accompanying Children to the Operating Theatre and Recovery Unit



The medical and nursing staff here at Maitland Private Hospital understand that it is in the best interest of children to be supported by a parent/caregiver. We aim to encourage and allow you to remain with your child wherever possible. Depending on the Anaesthetist caring for your child, you may be allowed to accompany your child into the anaesthetic bay until they are asleep, though this ultimately is at their discretion.

When your child goes into theatre for an operation, you will be asked to wait in the Day Surgery sitting area which is located just past the front entrance of the hospital. If you need to move away from this area, please ensure you have your mobile phone with you and turned on, in case staff need to contact you. When your child's operation is completed, they will come into the Recovery Unit and will be closely monitored whilst waking from their anaesthesia. Once they are awake and stable, at the discretion of staff, you will be contacted to come into the Recovery Unit to be with them. If your child is an adolescent, please discuss their wishes in relation to this prior to coming into theatre.

Important points:

- We allow one parent/caregiver into the Anaesthetic bay and in the Recovery Unit at a time, and we thank you for your understanding of this. Please arrange for the supervision of siblings elsewhere. You can discuss this with the ward staff or the Day Surgery staff.
- Your child will remain in Recovery and Day Surgery for approximately 1-3 hours.
- Please be respectful of the privacy of other patients in this acute environment and stay only at your child's bed side. Once inside the Anaesthetic bay and Recovery Unit, please ensure your phone is on silent.
- Movies/TV shows as a form of distraction on a mobile phone or iPad are allowed, but at a low volume.
- If your child is breast or bottle fed, this may be done in the Recovery Unit once the nursing staff advise you of the surgeon/ anaesthetist's instructions post operatively. Please bring a bottle/formula with you as we do not have supplies available.
- We suggest and encourage you to have a familiar and special toy/comfort item brought in with your child.
- If you have any questions, please direct them to the Day Surgery staff.

