

Your child's surgery



Egleston Hospital

Your child is going to have surgery or a procedure at Children's Egleston Hospital. Our hospital has advanced medical equipment and a team trained to care for children and teens.

Before the surgery

- You must fill out a pre-anesthesia health form. Do this online prior to surgery at choa.org/egsurgery or call **404-785-6712**.
- Most patients do not need to be seen before surgery. We will let you know if your child needs a pre-op visit with a member of the anesthesia team.
- A staff member will call or text you one day before the surgery to share eating and drinking instructions and your arrival time. It's important to arrive when instructed so we can properly prepare for the surgery.
- Remove any jewelry or accessories made of metal from your child's hair. Any piercings, body jewelry, false eyelashes and acrylic nails will also need to be removed.
- Bathe your child the night before surgery with soap and water. Wash your child's hair with shampoo. Do not use any baby oil, moisturizers, lotions, body powder or makeup.
- Dress your child in clean clothes. This helps lower the risk of your child getting an infection during the surgery or procedure.
- If your child wears contact lenses, please bring their glasses or contact solution, as their contacts will be removed before their surgery.
- Wash any comfort items, such as a blanket or stuffed toy that may be coming along with your child to the hospital.
- Report any symptoms of sickness to the pre-surgery nurse.

Helpful tips

- Answer your child's questions. Be honest.
- Listen to your child. They may be scared. Let your child know that the surgery is to help them, not punish them.
- Talk to the doctor about your concerns when your child is not there. Try to do this before the day of the surgery.
- We have limited space in our waiting room. Please make daycare plans for siblings on the day of the surgery.
- Visit choa.org/surgery for more tips on preparing for surgery and a photo tour of our day surgery center at Egleston.

Anesthesia plan

- Anesthesia is medicine that helps part or all of the body go to sleep for surgery.

- An anesthesiologist is a doctor who gives the sleep medicine to your child.
- An anesthesiologist who is trained to treat children will talk to you about caring for your child before your child goes into the operating room.

Eating and drinking rules

- A staff member will call or text you the day before your child's surgery and tell you what your child can eat and drink before surgery. There is **no eating** the day of the surgery. Clear fluids like water, apple juice, Pedialyte or Gatorade can usually be given up to two hours before the surgery.
- If your child has thickeners added to their drinks, they should not be used six hours prior to surgery. You should still encourage your child to drink clear fluids up to two hours before surgery. If they cannot drink fluids without thickeners, please call 404-785-6712.
- Do not give anything by mouth to your child after the time you were given to stop eating and drinking, including gum, hard candy or a sip of clear fluids like water or apple juice.
- No one is allowed to eat or drink in the waiting or pre-op area, including visitors.

It is important to follow these rules. If you do not, it could put your child's health at risk. Your child's surgery may be moved to another day if you do not follow these rules.

Going to the hospital for surgery

- You will be asked to arrive two to three hours before the scheduled surgery. If you are late, your child's surgery could be delayed or cancelled.
- A legal guardian has to sign both doctor and surgery center consent forms. Bring your guardianship papers or legal documents if you are the patient's guardian. Surgery cannot be done if these are not signed.
- Bring your insurance card, a photo ID and any paperwork from your child's doctor.
- Bring a list of medicines your child is taking and the dosage, including over-the-counter medicine, supplements or herbs.
- Bring any special or important equipment, such as a ventilator, oxygen or crutches, and any charging devices for the equipment.
- Bring a special item for your child, such as a favorite toy or blanket.
- Let your child make some choices, like what to wear and what to bring (for example, a sippy cup for after the surgery). This will help them feel more in control.

- As a parent, it is important that you eat on the day of the surgery. This helps you be at your best for your child. Remember: Your child should not eat or drink.
- Smile. Breathe. Your child will be more relaxed if you are calm.
- Any female patient who has begun menstruation or is 12 years of age or older will need to provide a urine sample before surgery.
- The number of visitors is limited to two adult caregivers in the surgery center.
- Child life specialists can help if you or your child are feeling anxious.

During the surgery

Patients having surgery at Egleston or Scottish Rite Hospitals will be taken into the operating room by a nurse. **Parents and guardians are NOT allowed to walk their child to the operating room at our hospital locations.**

One caregiver must remain at Egleston in a day surgery patient room or the third-floor waiting room during your child's surgery. This is for the safety of your child and helps your child's doctor find you if there are any questions.

Speak up

It is OK if you have questions or do not understand something about your child's surgery. We are here to help you. Do not be afraid to ask us questions or talk to us.

What to expect after surgery

- The nurses will check to make sure your child:
 - Is awake.
 - Can drink and keep down liquids.
 - Is comfortable.
- If your child was given pain medicine, follow the pain medicine directions given to you by your child's surgeon.
- Have your child sip liquid or chew ice chips. They may feel sick to their stomach. This is normal.
- Your child may be grumpy or sad. This is also normal. Listen and tell them that you understand how they feel.

Going home

At the discretion of your child's care team, your child can go home when they are awake and comfortable and your questions have been answered. Once your child is at home, call your surgeon with any further questions. Refer to the phone number on your discharge instructions.

Important phone numbers

Pre-surgery nurse	404-785-6711
404-785-6712	En español
Pre-op clinic	404-785-6707



Day surgery

404-785-6725

Child life specialist

404-785-6325

Insurance

404-785-5589

(Hours are Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. through Friday. Calls received after 3 p.m. will be returned the next business day.)

Directions

Egleston

1405 Clifton Road NE Atlanta, GA 30322

Take the Flower Elevators to day surgery on the third floor.

Parking

- The hospital has two parking decks, which are open 24 hours a day. The main parking deck for patients having surgery is located off Uppergate Drive.
- Bring your ticket to security before you leave to get a reduced price. Parking without this reduction is \$20.
- There is no valet parking at Egleston, but valet parking is available next door at the Emory Children's Center Building on Uppergate Drive. The cost is \$5 for Children's visitors and \$8 for non-Children's parking. There is also valet parking for \$8 at the Emory Winship Cancer Institute across the street from Egleston.
- For more parking information, visit choa.org/egleston-parking



Scan the QR code or visit choa.org/egleston for door-to-door directions.