

# Your child's surgery

## Scottish Rite Hospital



**Children's**<sup>SM</sup>  
Healthcare of Atlanta

Your child is going to have surgery or a procedure at Children's Scottish Rite Hospital. Our hospital has:

- A team trained to care for children and teens.
- Advanced medical equipment.
- Waiting areas that are child-friendly.

### Before surgery

- You must fill out a pre-anesthesia health form. Do this as soon as your child's surgery is scheduled by visiting [choa.org/surgery](http://choa.org/surgery) or calling **404-785-4664** for more information.
- 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. Sometimes, your child's surgeon requests you bring your child in. We have appointments available Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
- A staff member from our pre-op team will call you one business day before the surgery to share eating and drinking instructions, and your arrival time. It is 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. All piercings, body jewelry, false eyelashes and acrylic nails will 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 baby oil, moisturizers or lotions. Dress your child in clean clothes. This helps lower the risk of your child getting an infection during the surgery or procedure.
- Wash any comfort items, such as a blanket or stuffed toy, that may be coming with your child to the hospital.

### Helpful tips

- Answer your child's questions. Be honest.
- Listen to your child. He may be scared. Let your child know the surgery is to help him, not punish him.
- 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 areas. Make day care plans for any siblings on the day of surgery.
- Visit [choa.org/surgery](http://choa.org/surgery) for more tips.

### 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 and tell you what your child can drink and eat before surgery.
- Do not give your child anything by mouth 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.

It is important to follow these rules. If you do not, it could put your child's health at risk. There can be life-threatening safety risks to undergoing anesthesia with food or drink in the stomach. Your child's surgery will be moved to another day if you do not follow these rules.

### Going to the hospital for surgery

- You may be asked to arrive at the hospital up to two hours before surgery.
- A legal guardian has to sign consent forms for both the doctor and hospital. Surgery cannot be performed 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 takes, including over-the-counter medicine, supplements and herbs.
- Bring a special item to comfort your child, such as a favorite toy or blanket.
- Let your child make some choices about what to wear and what to bring (for example, a sippy cup or water bottle for after the surgery). This will help him feel in control.
- Be sure to 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.
- Child life specialists can help if you or your child is feeling anxious.

### During surgery

One caregiver must remain at Scottish Rite during your child's surgery. This is for the safety of your child and helps ensure your child's doctor can 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 questions or talk to us.

## What to expect after surgery

- The nurse will check to make sure your child:
  - Is awake.
  - Can drink and keep down liquids.
  - Is comfortable with his pain medicine. Follow the pain medicine directions given to you by your child's doctor.
- Have your child sip liquid or chew ice chips. He may feel sick to his stomach. This is normal.
- Your child may be grumpy or sad. This is also normal. Listen and tell him you understand how he feels.

## Going home

Your child can go home when he is 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.

In case of an urgent concern or emergency, call 911 or go to the nearest emergency department right away.

## Important phone numbers

### General information

404-785-2555

### Pre-anesthesia team

404-785-2380

### Billing and insurance

404-785-5589

### Pre-surgery nurse

404-785-4664

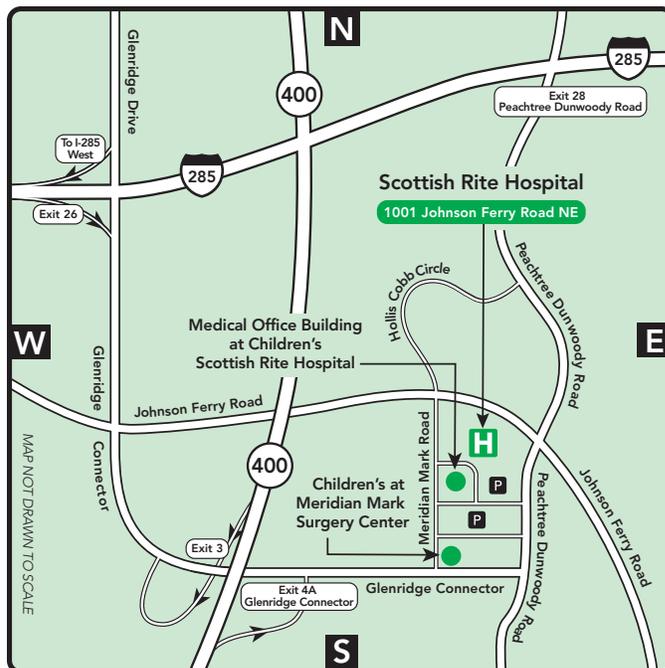
## Directions

- Visit [choa.org/locations](http://choa.org/locations) for door-to-door maps and directions.
- If you are using GPS, be sure to enter Atlanta as the city and 30342 as the ZIP code.
- Free shuttle service is available between Visitor Parking and various hospital entrances, the Medical Office Building at Children's Scottish Rite Hospital, day rehabilitation, day rehabilitation and Meridian Mark Plaza.
- Valet service is available Monday through Friday, 6 a.m. to 8 p.m., for \$4 at the hospital main entrance. For the Emergency Department, free valet service is available 24 hours a day.

### Scottish Rite Hospital

1001 Johnson Ferry Road NE

Atlanta, GA 30342



### Traveling on I-285 East

- Take Exit 26 (Glenridge Drive) (0.3 mile)
- Turn right onto Glenridge Drive (less than 0.1 mile)
- Turn left onto Johnson Ferry Road (0.4 mile)
- Turn right onto Meridian Mark Road (0.4 mile)
- The main entrance to the hospital is on the left
- Follow the signs for Visitor Parking

### Traveling on I-285 West

- Take Exit 28 (Peachtree Dunwoody Road) (0.2 mile)
- Turn left onto Peachtree Dunwoody Road (less than 0.1 mile)
- Turn right onto Johnson Ferry Road (0.5 mile)
- Turn left onto Meridian Mark Road (less than 0.2 mile)
- The main entrance to the hospital is on the left
- Follow the signs to Visitor Parking

### Traveling on GA-400 North

- Take Exit 4A (Glenridge Connector) (0.3 mile)
- Turn right onto Glenridge Connector (0.5 mile)
- Turn left onto Meridian Mark Road (less than 0.2 mile)
- The main entrance to the hospital is on the right
- Follow the signs to Visitor Parking

### Traveling on GA-400 South

- Take Exit 3 (Glenridge Connector) (0.5 mile)
- Turn right onto Glenridge Connector (0.5 mile)
- Turn left onto Meridian Mark Road (0.2 mile)
- The main entrance to the hospital is on the right
- Follow the signs to Visitor Parking



404-785-2555



[choa.org/surgery](http://choa.org/surgery)

Some physicians and affiliated healthcare professionals on the Children's Healthcare of Atlanta team are independent providers and are not our employees.