General Postsurgical Instructions, Child

The following guidelines should apply for 24 hours following the procedure. Children, like adults, may feel tired or irritable following general anesthesia.

- Have a responsible adult present to observe the child at all times for 24 hours following the anesthetic, and longer if the condition of the child justifies this.
- Allow for rest. Your child may be able to move around after surgery depending on your caregiver's instructions, but activity should be limited for the first 24 hours.
- Limit the child's outdoor activities, especially riding a bicycle or any other activities where the child may be injured.
- Gradually move to a regular diet as tolerated. Liquids or light meals may be best.
- The child **may resume all regular activities as directed** by your caregiver.

Medicine

The child should be given all medicine as prescribed. The child should be given pain medicine as needed. If the medicine does not help relieve the pain, call your caregiver. If your child was given medicine that kills germs (*antibiotics*) after surgery, make sure they take them as directed for the full course (full amount and time prescribed).

Care of Incision

- Change dressings as needed or directed.
- Bathe your child as directed by your caregiver.
- Have your child avoid activities that may risk injury to the *incision* (cut by the surgeon).

SEEK IMMEDIATE MEDICAL CARE IF:

- Your child has persistent dizziness or feel sick to their stomach (*nausea*).
- The child has trouble staying awake or you cannot arouse the child from sleeping.
- Your child has difficulty breathing or a croupy (congested sounding) cough.
- Your child has an oral temperature above 102° F (38.9° C), not controlled by medicine.
- There is increasing pain or tenderness near or in the incision.
- Your child can not eat or drink or the child develops vomiting.
- Your child has constipation, not helped by adjusting diet or increasing fluid intake. Pain medicine is a common cause of constipation.

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