

Your child's surgery



Children'sSM
Healthcare of Atlanta



Children's at Meridian Mark

Before surgery

A health history is required before your child's surgery. If you have not already done so, visit choa.org/mmsurgery or call **404-785-5615** to submit your information.

- Most patients do not need to be seen at Children's at Meridian Mark before surgery. Your child's surgeon will let you know if your child needs to visit the center before the surgery.
- You will receive a call one to two days before the surgery to confirm the date and time of surgery. It is important to arrive on time to properly prepare for the surgery.
- Remove any jewelry or accessories made of metal from your child's hair. All piercings and body jewelry 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 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.
- Remove your child's contact lenses before you arrive.

Helpful tips

- Answer your child's questions. Be honest.
- Listen to your child. He may be scared. Let your child know that the surgery is to help him, not punish him.
- If you have concerns, talk to the doctor when your child is not there. Try to do this before the day of the surgery.

 Visit choa.org/mmsurgery for more tips.

Eating and drinking rules

- We will call and tell you what your child can 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.
- Do not give your child anything by mouth after the time you were given for him to stop drinking. This includes water.
- 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 have to be canceled and moved to another day.
- No one is allowed to eat or drink in the waiting or pre-op area, **including visitors.**
- Bring a bottle of juice or formula for your infant or toddler after the surgery.
- There is not a cafeteria in the building, but we do have vending machines. You can bring snacks from home.

Parking at the surgery center

Children's at Meridian Mark
5445 Meridian Mark Road NE, Suite 340
Atlanta, GA 30342

Parking is available in the garage underneath the building. There is a fee to park. The attendant accepts cash and credit cards.



Visit choa.org/locations for door-to-door directions and maps.

Important phone numbers

General information 404-785-5650
Fax 404-785-5610
Pre-surgery nurse 404-785-5615
Billing and insurance 404-785-5589

At the surgery center

Going to the surgery center

- You may be asked to arrive up to two hours before surgery. Arrival times are decided by your child's surgeon.
- A legal guardian has to sign the consent for surgery. Bring your guardianship papers or legal documents if you are the patient's guardian. Surgery cannot be done if the consent form is not signed by a confirmed legal guardian.
- Bring your insurance card, a photo ID and any paperwork from your child's doctor.
- Bring a list of medicines your child is taking, such as over-the-counter medicine, supplements or herbs.
- Let your child make some choices, such as what to wear and what to bring (for example, a sippy cup for after the surgery). This will help him feel more in control.
- Bring a special item for your child, such as a favorite toy or blanket. Your child will also get to choose a toy from our toy cupboard to take home after surgery.
- As a parent, it is important that you eat 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.
- The number of visitors is limited to two caregivers in the surgery center.
- Any female patient who has begun menstruation or is 12 years of age or older will need to provide a urine sample before surgery.

Anesthesia plan

- Anesthesia is medicine that lets a part of the body, or all of the body, go to sleep before 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.

During surgery

One caregiver must remain at the surgery center 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. If your child is between 6 months and 12 years old, one parent may go with him to the operating room, in most cases. Final decisions about being in the operating room will be made the day of the surgery by the anesthesiologist. Sometimes we cannot allow parents into the operating room. For example, pregnant women cannot be in the operating room.

What to expect after surgery

- The nurses will check to make sure your child:
 - Is awake.
 - 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. 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 that you understand how he feels.

Additional information

Going home

Your child can go home when he is awake and comfortable, and your questions have been answered. Your child's surgeon will talk with you after the surgery. Your child's nurse will write down instructions on taking care of your child at home. Follow all of these instructions, including those for pain medicine. Once your child is at home, call your surgeon with any further questions. Refer to the phone number on your discharge instructions. Remember: In case of an urgent concern or emergency, call 911 or go to the nearest emergency department right away.

Speak up

It is OK if you have questions about your child's surgery. We are here to help you. Do not be afraid to ask us questions or talk to us. We take our time with each child, and surgeries sometimes don't begin on time. If you have questions, talk to a staff member.

Patient and parent rights and responsibilities

You should know your child's rights as a patient and your rights and responsibilities as a parent. Visit choa.org/patients or call **404-785-5615** for a copy of our patient and parent rights and responsibilities.

You have the right to:

- Receive respect, emotional support and privacy for health information.
- Have access to resources for your child's care.
- Get details about your child's care that you understand.
- Talk with your child's doctor.
- Understand your child's illness or injury, and how we plan to treat him.
- Be free from abuse.
- Take steps to handle complaints.

Patients age 18 and older have the right to make decisions about their treatment and create an advance directive, a document that expresses the patient's wishes for care in the event that he becomes unable to communicate.

Your child's doctor may be a part owner of this outpatient surgery center.



Visit choa.org/mmsurgery for more information.

Children's Healthcare of Atlanta Surgery Center at Meridian Mark Plaza LLC, license #060256

The Children's Healthcare of Atlanta Surgery Center at Meridian Mark Plaza LLC is an affiliate of Children's Healthcare of Atlanta. It is a joint venture with Scottish Rite as the majority owner and physician investors as members.

Physicians and affiliated healthcare professionals who perform services at the Children's Healthcare of Atlanta Surgery Center at Meridian Mark Plaza LLC are independent providers and are not our employees.