
We look forward to taking care of you and your child. Our goal at the Children's Radiology and Sedation department is to give you and your child excellent and individualized care during your time with us. We would like your visit to be as comfortable and safe as possible for you and your child.

What is sedation?

Sedation is the process of putting your child to sleep with medicines. The medicines help your child relax and fall asleep. The medicines are given by mouth to swallow, into the nose or through an IV (intravenous line). Sedation can help keep your child comfortable during medical scans, tests or procedures.

Please tell your nurse if your child:

- Has a central line or a port.
- Is difficult to put an IV in.
- Has labs (blood tests) ordered.

To help keep your child safe during sedation, we will ask:

- The last time your child ate or drank anything.
- Medicines your child takes.
- Any allergies to food or medicines.
- Any current or recent illnesses or sick contacts.
- If your child snores, drools or stops breathing during sleep.
- If your child had issues with sedation or anesthesia before.

What happens during sedation?

- We want your child to be comfortable and calm before sedation. You can cuddle, talk, sing, read or play with your child. Children often model your mood and actions. It is important that you are calm too.
- Our child life specialists can help distract your child as well. They use play therapy to help make the experience less scary for both you and your child.
- Most parents can walk with their child to the MRI, CT scan, PET scan or procedure area. You can be close to them while they are falling asleep.
- You will not be allowed to stay in the room after your child falls asleep. Your child will not be alone at any time during their procedure. Their nurse will be with them to check their breathing, heart rate and blood pressure.
- Your child goes to the recovery area after their test or procedure is done. A nurse continues to check on your child as they wake up and until it is safe for them to go home or back to their hospital room.

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

Before sedation in Radiology, continued

In this part of the teaching sheet, we will explain possible tests that your child may be scheduled for. There are other tests and procedures that can be done with sedation. Please talk with the care team about what test your child will be having.

What is an MRI?

An MRI (magnetic resonance imaging) machine is a large circle with a hole in the center. It looks like a donut. The machine makes loud noises. MRIs use strong magnets and sound waves to take pictures of the body.

The MRI rooms are Ferrous Free. That means no metal or magnetic material can go into the room. Everyone entering is checked for metal. An MRI safety technician explains the screening process to parents.

What is a CT scan?

A CT scan (computed tomography scan) uses X-rays and computers to take pictures of the body. The machine looks like a big donut. The camera spins around the body to take fast and detailed pictures.

What is a PET scan?

PET scan (positron emission tomography scan) uses radioactive material to view, measure and take pictures of the activity of cells in the body.

Thank you for allowing us to take care of your child. Please ask any questions you have after reading this information.

This teaching sheet contains general information only. Talk with your child's doctor or a member of your child's healthcare team about specific care of your child.

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