

Preparing for Your Child's Surgery

(For patients under age 16)

Your child is scheduled to arrive at the hospital on the day of his or her surgery. You will be checking in at the MassGeneral Hospital for Children (MGHfC) Perioperative Care Unit on the 3rd floor of the Ellison building. To reach the Ellison elevators, follow the large blue "E" on the signs overhead. Once on the 3rd floor, follow the sign to the Post Anesthesia Care Units (PACU) - there is also a blue line on the floor (followed by duck tracks) to help guide you.

Note that you cannot have food or drinks in the reception area.

AFTER CHECK-IN

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| Your child changes into hospital pajamas | You'll help your child change into hospital pajamas and socks, and put his/her clothes in a bag labeled with their name. |
| Vital signs taken | In the Pre-op area, a nurse will weigh and measure your child and take his/her vital signs (blood pressure, temperature, pulse). |
| Child Life Specialist | Child Life Services are available to help prepare your child for what to expect in the operating room. If you would like to speak with a Child Life Specialist about how and when to prepare your child for upcoming surgery or to schedule a time to come in and visit, please call 617-724-1211. |
| Meet your child's OR team | You will meet the team that will be taking care of your child in the operating room. |
| Meet with the anesthesiologist | The anesthesia team will talk with you about the best and safest way for your child to go to sleep. |

GOING INTO THE OPERATING ROOM (OR)

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| Going into the operating room | When it is time to go into the operating room, we will ask you to put on a surgical mask and go with your child. Most parents can stay in the room with their child until we give the anesthesia. However, in some cases, we may ask you to step out before we give the anesthesia. |
| Parent or guardian puts on hospital clothing | You will put on a paper gown or jumpsuit over your clothes, as well as a hat and shoe covers. |
| During surgery | As soon as your child is asleep, someone will bring you out of the operating room and back to the waiting area until the surgery is finished. |

AFTER SURGERY

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| Surgeon will speak with you | Once the surgery is finished, the surgeon will speak with you. |
| Post Anesthesia Care Unit (PACU) | Most families will be directed to the Post Anesthesia Care Unit (PACU) to be with your child as he/she recovers. If your child is being discharged, you may go home directly from the PACU. If your child is being admitted after recovering in the PACU, you will be transferred to the inpatient floor. Some children go to the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU) directly after surgery, and you will be able to see your child there. |

ARRIVING AT MASS GENERAL

Parking

Mass General patients and visitors who park in the Fruit Street, Parkman Street and Yawkey Center parking garages are eligible for a discounted parking rate. Validate tickets at the cashier in the central payment office on the ground floor of the lobby of each garage. Valet parking is available after 6:00am in front of the Wang building.

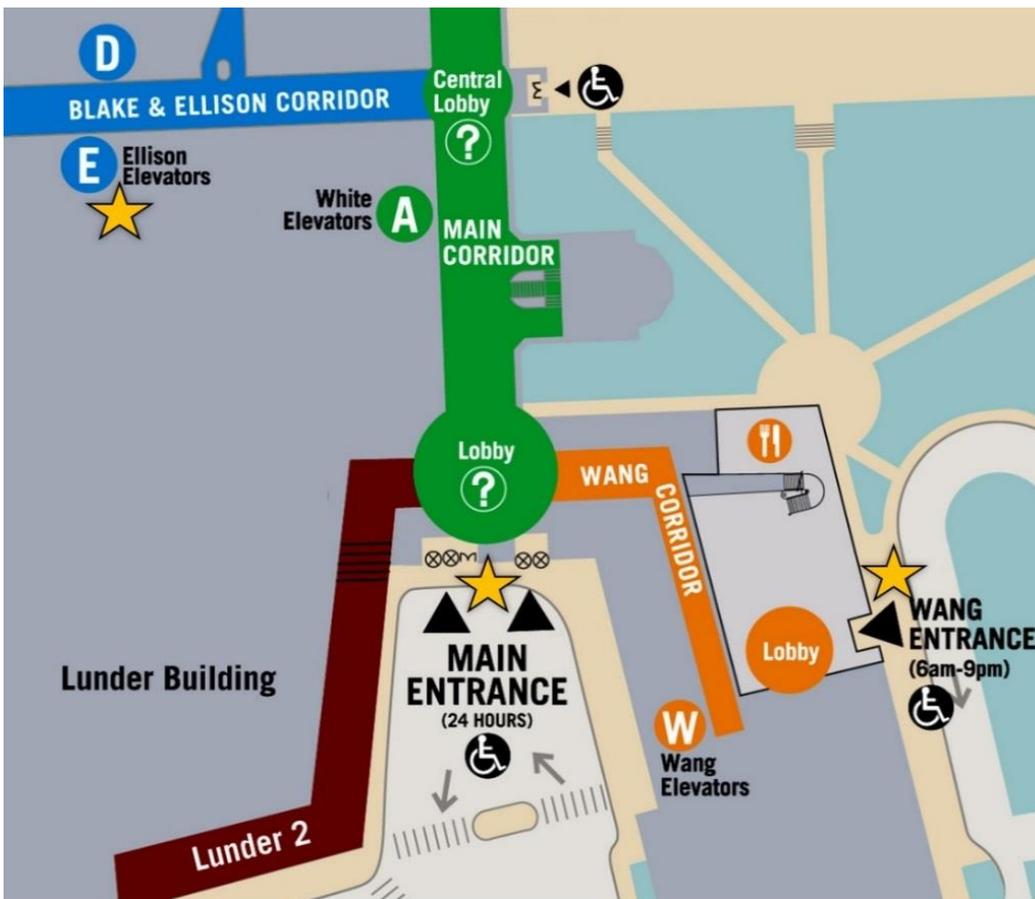
Enter the hospital

Use the main entrance of the hospital. Take a left at the hallway before Coffee Central. Follow the large blue "E" on the signs overhead to the Ellison elevators. Once on the 3rd floor, follow the sign to the Post Anesthesia Care Units (PACU) - there is also a blue line on the floor (followed by duck tracks) to help guide you.

Information desk

Ambassadors welcome and direct patients arriving at the hospital and help patients, families and visitors with special assistance requests, such as getting out of a car or into a wheelchair. Ambassadors are posted at the hospital's main entrance at 55 Fruit Street and the entrance to the Wang building.

Contact information: MGHfC Perioperative Care Unit: 857-238-1400



If you have any feedback on this document, please contact mghcpatienteducation@partners.org.
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