

Pediatric Preoperative Clinic Letter

Your child has an appointment booked at the Hamilton Health Sciences (HHS) Preoperative Clinic as they are having surgery at McMaster Children's Hospital.

Our team of experts at the Preoperative Clinic will assess your child's health, current condition, and review any medications they are on.

Please note not all patients will be required to come in person to see the anesthesiologist. During your initial nurse phone call the nurse will let you know if your child needs to be seen in person before surgery.

If your child does not have to come in person to the clinic, an anesthesiologist will assess your child on the day of their surgery.

What to Expect:

1. Anesthesia Health Questionnaire (on MyChart)

- Before your child's initial nurse phone call visit, we will ask you to fill out a questionnaire on MyChart about their health and current condition.
- Filling this form out to the best of your ability will allow the visit to be as efficient as possible.
- Please do not worry if you are not able to fill out information on MyChart.
- The nurses and anesthesiologist will work with you to ensure important information is documented.
- For questions / concerns accessing MyChart, please contact epicmychart@hhsc.ca or contact Health Records 905-521-2100 x42087.

2. Preoperative Clinic Nursing Visit (over the Telephone)

- Your child's surgeon's office has booked a phone call visit with one of our preoperative clinic nurses.
- The nurses will do their best to call within 1 hour of the booked time.
- The call may be delayed due to the number of patients we serve and potential staffing shortages.
- Your patience is appreciated.

During the nurse phone call the nurse will:

- Go over important information on the questionnaire.
- Confirm your answers and ask for additional details if necessary.
- Give you important information about how to prepare for your child's surgery.
- Instruct you where to go on the day of surgery and what to bring to the hospital.
- A lot of information will be exchanged during this phone call.
- You may find it helpful to write things down or seek assistance from a family member or trusted friend.
- Information will be emailed to you by the nurse after the phone call or be available on MyChart for review.

3. Our Pharmacy Team

If your child is taking medications at home you may get an additional call from a member of our pharmacy team. This call may come before or after the nurse call.

During the pharmacy phone call a member from the team will:

- Accurately record all medications your child is on and how they take them.
- They may give you instructions on what medications to give your child before surgery.

Medication instructions may also come from the anesthesiologist if your child is required to have an in-person visit

4. In-Person Anesthesiologist Preoperative Clinic Visit (at 690 Main Street West, Hamilton, Ontario)

- Your child may be required to come to the Preoperative Clinic in person so that a board certified anesthesiologist or a resident anesthesiologist can see them in person.
- We know your time is valuable and we have carefully designed criteria to select only those patients that need assessment in person by our team of anesthesiologists to come in person to clinic.
- Please expect to be at the clinic 2-4 hours for the assessment.
- We recommend bringing snacks, books or activities for your child and yourself.

At the Preoperative Clinic you can expect the following:

- Your child will be checked in by our clerical staff and directed to the waiting room.
- The nurse will perform any necessary tests and investigations ordered by your surgeon (pediatric patients usually have blood tests done the day of surgery in the operating room after they are asleep if required).
- You will meet with one of our anesthesiologists who will confirm details of your child's health and current condition.
- The anesthesiologist you see in clinic may not be the anesthesiologist caring for your child on the day of their surgery.
- Information is documented for the anesthesiologist taking care of your child on the day of surgery.

Our Preoperative Anesthesia Clinic team of nursing, pharmacy and anesthesiology experts are thrilled to be part your child's health care journey with HHS.

We are committed to work with you to make sure the anesthesia plan is designed for your child and that your child's surgery at HHS is as safe and as comfortable as possible.

Sincerely,
The Preoperative Clinic Team