Division of Pediatric Surgery
Surgical Instructions

Albany Medical Center
50 New Scotland Ave
Albany, NY 12208

Phone: (518) 262-5831
Fax: (518) 262-4223

M. Christine Whyte, M.D.
Chief, Division of Pediatric Surgery

Jessica Mills, MD
Pediatric Surgeon

Michael Ganey, MD
Pediatric Surgeon

Parent/Guardian of: ____________________________________

Surgery Date: _________________________________________

Post Operative Appt: ___________________________________

Instructions:

• The OR will contact you the day before the surgery to inform you of the procedure time and what
time to arrive for surgery.
• If surgery is scheduled on a Monday, you will be contacted the Friday prior to surgery.
• They must speak to a parent/Guardian before the surgery or the surgery will be cancelled. If you
know you cannot be reached, please contact us by calling (518) 262-5831 for instructions and time
before 4 PM the day before surgery.

Contact Numbers:

• If your phone number changes prior to the surgery date or you find there is a better number for the
OR to reach you at, please call prior to surgery with the new information.
• It is imperative that there be a working phone number to reach parents/guardians for surgery.
Failing to provide a working phone number will result in a postponement of surgery.

Insurance:

• Our office will contact your insurance company for proper authorization prior to surgery, if
necessary.
• If the insurance changes or terminates prior to surgery, please call our office with the new
insurance information. Failing to do so will result in surgery being cancelled or the patient’s
guarantor being responsible for the full payment of the bill.

Cancellations:

• We make every possible effort to accommodate our patients. However, situations may arise where
your child’s surgery may need to be delayed, moved up, or postponed to another day due to an
emergency. We ask for your understanding in advance.
Dear Parent or Guardian:

The Department of Anesthesiology welcomes you and your child to The Children’s Hospital at Albany Medical Center. For your convenience, your anesthesiologist will carefully evaluate healthy children on the day of surgery. If your child has a more complicated medical history, your surgeon will contact the anesthesia department and they will call you prior to your child’s surgery. At that time we will discuss the anesthetic care for your child. We know the thought of upcoming surgery can cause a lot of anxiety for both parents and children so we will do everything possible to make the experience as safe and positive as we can.

It is VERY important for your child’s safety that he/she has an empty stomach at the start of anesthesia and surgery. Below are some important guidelines for withholding food and drink:

1. **NO SOLID FOOD OR FORMULA/MILK FOR 8 HOURS PRIOR TO SURGERY. GUM, COUGH DROPS OR OTHER HARD CANDY ARE CONSIDERED TO BE “SOLID FOOD”**

2. **CLEAR LIQUIDS (APPLE JUICE, GINGERALE, 7-UP, OR WATER) ARE ALLOWED UP TO 2 HOURS BEFORE SURGERY. (NOTE: ORANGE JUICE IS NOT A CLEAR LIQUID AND IS NOT ALLOWED.)**

3. **BREAST FED INFANTS MAY BE FED BREAST MILK UP UNTIL 4 HOURS PRIOR TO SURGERY.**

If the above guidelines are not followed, your child’s surgery may be cancelled or delayed.

Some other helpful hints:
1. Please call the PACU nurse practitioner at (518) 262-4170 if there is a change in your child’s health that you believe may cancel surgery such as: a bad cold, running a fever, or an asthma attack.
2. Please do not bring any other children with you on the day of surgery as this may impair your ability to care for your child having the surgery.
3. If your child desires, we would love to have them bring a favorite blanket or toy.
4. Tell us if your child sucks his/her thumb (for location of IV catheter).
5. When you meet your anesthesiologist they may decide to give your child a sedative medicine to drink. Also, if we feel it will benefit your child, we may allow one parent or guardian to come into the operating room for the start of the anesthesia. This will be discussed on the day of surgery.
6. As soon as possible, we will allow up to two adults in the post anesthesia care unit after the surgery is finished.
7. Please provide your surgeon with a current phone number.
8. The Operating Room staff will call you with your arrival time the day before your surgery. If you have not been contacted, or other questions arise please call the Operating Room at (518) 262-4200.

We hope to make your experience with us as pleasant as possible!

Melissa A. Ehlers, M.D.
Director of Pediatric Anesthesia
Day of Surgery Directions:

Upon arrival, please park in the 40 New Scotland garage behind Panera Bread, accessible via Veteran’s Way. From Level 2 of the garage, take the pedestrian bridge across New Scotland Avenue to the Patient Pavilion. Once in this lobby, continue to follow the hallway until the end. Take the “B” elevators on the left down to level “B” (basement). Turn left, once outside of the elevator foyer, and go to the end of the hallway. The entrance to the “Children’s Hospital Surgical Waiting and Registration” will be on your left.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact our office between the hours of 8:30-4:30 at (518) 262-5831.

Thank you,

The Department of Pediatric Surgery