



KEEPING YOUR CHILD SAFE



Partners in Patient
Safety

**your visit at
SickKids**

WORKING TOGETHER TO KEEP YOUR CHILD SAFE

Keeping your child safe is important to everyone at SickKids.

Children stay safer when their parents are informed and involved in their care. Ask questions and talk to your health-care team. Working together is the best way to keep your child safe.

Follow the safety tips in this pamphlet and talk to your doctor or nurse if you have questions or concerns about any safety issues while you are at SickKids.



Talk to your health-care team

You know your child best. The information you give us about your child helps us keep him safe.

- Give your health-care team an up-to-date description of your child's health. Tell us about any treatments or surgeries by any other doctors or health-care professionals, including naturopaths or herbalists.
- Tell us about your child's special physical, emotional or equipment needs or about any special aids like glasses or hearing aids.
- Tell us if there are any changes in your child's condition that concern you. You may notice things the health-care team doesn't.

Make sure you understand your child's condition and treatment plan

To keep your child safe it is important that you understand his condition, treatment and how to help care for him.

- Ask your health-care provider to explain things in a different way if you don't understand. Never be embarrassed to ask any question.
- Ask for an interpreter if you are more comfortable in a language other than English.
- Ask for written information about your child's condition so that you can read it when you are ready.

Parent Tip!

For trusted child health information visit www.aboutkidshealth.ca
[aboutkidshealth](http://aboutkidshealth.ca)

Clean your hands often!

Clean your hands using the hand sanitizer pumps located around the hospital or with soap and water:

- Before entering your child's room
- Before leaving your child's room
- After changing diapers or helping your child in the washroom
- Before eating or feeding your child (includes tube feeding)

Preventing patients and staff from getting sick

If you, or other visitors, come to the hospital when you are sick you may pass on germs to staff or patients. Do not come to the hospital if you have:

- Fever
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Rash
- Coughing/sneezing

Safety and security

Protection Services keeps staff, patients and families at SickKids safe. Please tell any SickKids staff member or dial the Protection Services hotline (call 7122 from any SickKids in-house phone) to report:

- Any suspicious people or activities
- Any lost or stolen items

Identification

Staff, volunteers, patients and parents at SickKids should wear identification at all times while on hospital property.

- Check for a white ID badge on staff members and volunteers interacting with your child.
- Wear your parent ID badge at all times so staff and security know who you are.
- Ensure your child is wearing an ID bracelet with the correct name and information written on it.

Prevent falls in hospital

Falls can happen quickly and easily, and can cause serious injury. Ask your nurse if there are any special things you can do to protect your child.

- Keep your child's bed in the lowest position to the ground.
- Don't allow your children to climb or stand on furniture.
- Make sure your child wears shoes or non-skid slippers and well-fitting pajamas to walk in hallways.

Safety Tip!

Medication use, a new environment, and your child's medical conditions may make him more likely to fall while in the hospital.

Safety Tips!

Infants under two years old **must** sleep in a crib while at SickKids.

SickKids is not a peanut-free environment; inform your health-care team of any serious allergies.

Bed safety

Protect your child while he is in his bed or crib:

- Always keep the siderails completely up and locked in place, even when you're sitting at the bedside.
- Infants under two years old should be placed in a crib. Unless there are medical reasons and your doctor says otherwise, infants should be positioned on their backs to sleep, with no loose or soft bedding.
- Never sleep in the same bed as your child.
- Kids are curious. Please be watchful when around tubings and cords because they can get tangled in them.



Allergies

Allergies can be very dangerous for your child or for other children.

- Tell your health-care team about your child's food, medication and latex allergies.
- Make sure he has proper identification, like a hospital-issued bracelet and a MedicAlert bracelet to alert staff to the allergy.
- Do not bring latex balloons, foods with nuts, or fresh flowers or plants to the hospital. For more information on common childhood allergies see www.aboutkidshealth.ca.



Medicine safety

Your child's health-care team needs to know about all medicines your child takes, in order to give him the best and safest care.

- Bring all of your child's medication to the hospital when you come to stay overnight or for an appointment.
- Herbal preparations and vitamins can react with certain medications. Bring these to the hospital with your child's other medicines.

Leaving SickKids (discharge)

From SickKids your child may go home or to another hospital or facility. You need to be prepared for this change.

Ask your team about:

- When and how your child will be discharged home or transferred to another hospital
- Medications your child will be taking after discharge
- When your child is to follow up with his regular doctor or specialists

Make sure you know who to contact if you have a problem at home. Make sure you understand what to watch for and when to contact your health-care provider or, if necessary, 911.

Safety Tip!

Children less than 4 feet 9 inches tall, are required by law to ride in a booster seat or car seat. Bring your child's car seat with you when you come to take him home.

For more info:
www.safekids.ca



Partners in Patient
Safety

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Also available in other languages.

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