

Welcome to the

Pediatric Unit

at Prince George's Hospital Center





welcome!

At Prince George's Hospital Center, we realize that a hospital stay can be a little scary when you are a child. The Pediatric Staff hopes to make your child's stay as pleasant as possible. We encourage parents to continue to provide the usual care for your child (bathing, diapering, feeding, comforting) during your hospital stay, as this decreases your child's stress.

The following information will help make your stay with us a more comfortable experience.



Dimensions Healthcare System
Prince George's Hospital Center

www.princegeorghospital.org

3001 Hospital Drive, Cheverly, MD 20785
301-618-3170 (TTY/TDD)

information ...

telephone numbers

Nurses' Station: 301-618-2600

Your Room: 301-618-_____.

Between visits we will be happy to update you and answer questions by phone. For your privacy, we can only release information to the parents of the child who is hospitalized. It is easiest to reach the nurses' station any time except shift change/report time when the nurses are unable to come to the phone. Telephone calls to the nurses' station are discouraged during the following hours: 7:30 a.m. – 8:00 a.m., 3:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m., and 11:30 p.m. – 12:00 a.m.

safety

For the safety of your child, this unit has controlled access. Visitors may press the white button next to the intercom outside the door to obtain entry to the unit. When you are leaving the unit, please notify your child's nurse.

For children who require a crib, we ask that you keep the side rails in the top position unless you are putting the child into the crib or taking him out. Children should not sleep in cots or chairs with parents since your child may fall out of bed.

playroom

We invite our patients to visit our playroom in the Pediatric Unit. Please ask your nurse if the playroom is appropriate for your child, and please stay with your child at all times. Toys and books may be removed from the playroom. Please return and place them in the "dirty toy" bin so they may be cleaned. We also encourage you to bring your child's favorite toy from home.

mealtimes

Your child will receive a meal tray three times a day. Unfortunately, we cannot provide meals for parents or siblings. Eating and drinking by parents and siblings in the patient rooms is discouraged. Meal trays will be provided for breast-feeding moms. Please let your infant's nurse know when you will be on the Pediatric Unit so a tray can be arranged for you.

Cafeteria/Hilltop Café

The hospital has dining available at our Hilltop Café located on the third floor of the hospital and our cafeteria located on the first floor. For hours of operation, call 301-618-2678. You are welcome to go to these dining areas for meals while your child is hospitalized.

Vending machines are also available and are located on the first floor next to the cafeteria.





visiting

Hospital visiting hours are 11:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. However, parents can talk to the nurse on the unit about extended visiting hours for parents.

Siblings of any age are welcome to visit. If they are under the age of 12, they may only visit between the hours of 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. and must first obtain a health clearance from the patient's nurse. All other children must be over the age of 12 years.

Only two visitors (including parents and siblings) may visit a patient at any one time. Other visitors may wait in the lobby outside the Pediatric Unit. Visitors under the age of 16 years should be accompanied by an adult at all times.

television & telephones

Both are provided free of charge during a patient's hospitalization. Incoming calls to the patient's room are discouraged after 10:00 p.m.

overnight parents

One parent per child may spend the night in the patient's room. Due to space limitations, only one sleep cot per room is allowed. If two patients are in a room, one parent for the second child may use a sleep chair. Because medical and nursing staff must visit your child during the night to attend to your child's needs, please wear appropriate clothing at all times.

Sleep chairs and cots may be unfolded after 9:00 p.m. and are to be refolded by 8:00 a.m. Medical staff makes patient rounds at 8:00 a.m., so parents who spend the night are asked to be dressed by that time. There is a shower available for parents who stay overnight.

procedures

During your child's hospital stay, he or she will probably require an "IV" to help provide fluid, nutrition, and medications. This IV will be restarted as needed throughout the child's stay. IVs are placed in the best available site; hands, arms, feet (and scalp for infants) are all appropriate IV locations. Every effort is made to maintain the initial IV, however, this is not always possible. We ask your assistance in protecting the IV and avoiding tension on the line and stress on the site.

smoking

Smoking is not permitted in the hospital.

special needs

If you or your child have any special needs, please tell your child's nurse at the time of admission so that we may make every effort to accommodate those needs.

physician visits

Your child's physician, or one of the hospital staff physicians, will visit your child each day. Please take the time to write down in advance questions you have for them; this will help you get timely answers. The nursing staff will gladly answer questions for you or contact the physician for answers to questions that are more appropriate for them to answer.

happy, healthy children

It is our desire to make your child's stay as comfortable, pleasant, and supportive as possible. Please ask your child's nurse if you have any further questions or if there is something else we can do for you while you and your child are here.

