



Abbreviations (laboratory & radiology excluded):

pt. = patient
SDS = Same Day Surgery
OR = Operating Room
IV = intravenous
PO = by mouth
PACU = Post-anesthesia Care Unit

Prior to surgery pt/family meets:

- Pre-op nurse
- Anesthesia
- Surgeon
- Child Life Specialists

Arrival to SDS for check in

Presurgical anxiolysis if indicated

Prior to incision:

- Dexamethasone (typical dosage range: 0.2 - 0.5 mg/kg)
- IV acetaminophen (dosage 12.5 mg/kg IV)
- Local anesthesia and antibiotics

Consider during surgical case:

- Dexmedetomidine (typical dosage range: 0.25 - 1.0 mcg/kg)
- Long acting opioid titrated to effect (morphine or hydromorphone)

Prior to leaving operating room:

- Extubate
- Apply elbow immobilizers

Transfer to PACU

Does pt. meet anesthesia discharge criteria?

Continue monitoring in PACU

Consult with anesthesia for disposition

Transfer to Inpatient Unit

Monitor vital signs to include:

- Pediatric Anesthesia Emergence Delirium Scale
- Pain scores

Administer comfort measures:

- Opioids for effect
- Distraction therapy
- Starts PO if tolerates
- Reunite with family

Additional algorithms:

- [Prior to Surgery](#)
- [Inpatient stay](#)

PACU Handoff to Inpatient Nurse and Family:

- Nurses responsible for care (PACU/Inpatient)
- Length of time in PACU
- Medications administered in the OR and PACU (including analgesics)
- If PO was initiated and amount
- Pt.'s overall progress during PACU stay