

# DENTAL CARE IN HOSPITAL



The KidsSmile team are visitors at hospitals across our area and we are thankful for their care of our families. Hospitals are busy places, and it can be a little overwhelming for families and their children. Please take the time to read the following information to help you with your child's hospital journey. You and your child will meet hospital staff who will assist you on this journey. The KidsSmile team work in the theatre complex and may meet you in the waiting area or when you come through to the theatre.

## **Anaesthetist**

Your child will be cared for by a specialist doctor or known as an anaesthetist. The role of the anaesthetist is to assess your child's health prior to their surgery and manage all aspects of their general anaesthetic (GA). They monitor your child during the procedure and manage their pain during their care.

## **How will the general anaesthetic be given**

Your child will "fall asleep" either with medicine breathed through the mask or via a cannula. They will "fall asleep" either by sitting on a parent's lap or on a bed with the parent with them. The anaesthetist will use unique strategies of storytelling, distraction and/or games, depending on your child's individual needs. Some children will wiggle as they fall asleep and may try and remove the mask. A parent/carer's calm reassurance is most important.

## **Fasting**

Your child will need to fast before their procedure. This means no food for 6 hours prior to their visit. Clear fluids are allowed on the morning so have some apple juice or lemonade ice pole at home. The hospital or anaesthetist will provide more guidance about this.

## **Medicines**

If your child is on regular medications prescribed by their GP, paediatrician or other specialist this should be continued, and the anaesthetist notified.

## **Clothing**

Your child will wear their own clothing in theatre so please have them in comfortable clothing. Please bring spare clothes, including a warm top.

## **Financial**

Please refer to information about completing online admission from the hospital and obtain a quote for any out-of-pocket expenses / excess.

Payment for the anaesthetist is the parent's responsibility and should be completed prior to the hospital visit.

## **Discharge**

Your child will be discharged home after a little snack or when the anaesthetist and nurses are happy for them to go. Please refer to the post-operative instructions provided in this folder.

The KidsSmile team will follow-up by phone on the next business day.

**Useful resources: A little deep sleep movie. <https://youtu.be/NIV2zLkOqjI>**