

## Taking Your Child Home After General Anesthesia for MRI or CT Scan

Your child just had an MRI or CT scan with general anesthesia. This handout will discuss what to expect after taking your child home.

### Home Care

You must have someone (age 16 or older) stay with your child for the rest of today and tonight. This is for your child's safety and protection.

### Activity

Your child may feel sleepy for 12 to 24 hours from the medicine used during the test. Your child should rest and avoid strenuous activity.

### Pain

Your child may have a mild to moderate sore throat for the next 24 hours. The IV site may also be tender for a while.

### Diet

Have your child drink clear liquids, such as water, apple juice, or soft drinks. Give several glasses of clear liquids to help prevent dehydration.

When your child feels ready, you may offer easy-to-digest foods such as soup, soda crackers, or similar foods.

**Avoid** milk products, spicy, or fatty foods. Your child may return to their normal diet the next day if they feel well.

### When to Call

Call right away if you notice your child has:

- A fever above 100° F (by mouth) or 99° F (under the arm) for 2 readings taken 4 hours apart.
- Trouble breathing or a “wet sounding” cough that does not go away.
- Frequent vomiting.
- Trouble or pain urinating.
- A severe sore throat that does not go away.

Your child's anesthesiologist is:

Dr. \_\_\_\_\_.

### Who to Call

**(608) 262-0486 or 1-800-323-8942**

Ask for the anesthesia doctor on call. Give your name and phone number with the area code. The doctor will call you back.

Our staff will try to call you at home or work within the next few days. We will ask a few questions about your child's recovery and the care your child received. We wish your child a quick recovery.

Your health care team may have given you this information as part of your care. If so, please use it and call if you have any questions. If this information was not given to you as part of your care, please check with your doctor. This is not medical advice. This is not to be used for diagnosis or treatment of any medical condition. Because each person's health needs are different, you should talk with your doctor or others on your health care team when using this information. If you have an emergency, please call 911. Copyright © 4/2026 University of Wisconsin Hospitals and Clinics Authority. All rights reserved. Produced by the Department of Nursing. HF#7238