



FINDING A **CURE** FOR EPILEPSY & SEIZURES

VEEG/VIDEO MONITORING

Your child is scheduled for admission to NYU Langone Medical Center. This handout has been developed to answer some of the general questions you may have prior to your stay. **As always, please consult your physician for more specific information regarding your child's care.**

Before your arrive at the hospital

- A **Pre-Admission Tour** of the pediatric unit is available. To schedule a guided tour of the ninth floor areas and an opportunity for age-appropriate preparation for hospitalization, please contact a Child Life Specialist at **(212) 263-5585**, at least two weeks prior to visit date to schedule an appointment.
- No question is too small! We offer an **Information Telephone Voicemail**. Your calls will be answered by a Child Life Specialist who can provide information to parents prior to admission and answer general questions. No question or concern is too small. The phone number is **(212) 263-1100**.
- Please visit the Child Life services website for additional information about NYU Langone Medical Center and the Child Life services program. You may access our website at: www.med.nyu.edu/childlife.
- A Social Worker is available to discuss any emotional, financial or practical concerns that you may have regarding your child's hospitalization and discharge. You can contact the **Social Work Department** at **(212) 263-5018**.
- If you are traveling from a far distance, arrangements can be made to stay at a location near the hospital. Reservations are subject to availability and rates vary. Please call the Social Work Department for a listing of accommodations.
- In addition, there are apartments available across from the hospital at Greenberg Hall (545 First Avenue). These studios are equipped with 2 single beds, a bathroom, and a kitchen, a television and telephone. Linens and basic kitchen equipment are provided. Rooms are cleaned daily. The cost is \$150 per night. Apartment availability is limited so reserve one as soon as possible. Contact the **Patient Representative Department** at **(212) 263-6906**.

During your Stay

Family Visits.....

- Visiting hours are from 12 noon-8 p.m. We encourage family visits in the hospital, however it is important that your child also gets the rest he/she needs. An adult must supervise all visitors under the age of 18 at all times while on the unit to avoid disturbing other patients and families.
- Visitors under 13 years of age must be cleared with the nursing staff. **Any visitors or family members with an infection or illness should not visit.**

In your room....

- The Medical Center recognizes the importance of family-centered care. Each child's room includes a bed or a crib for your child, and a sleeper chair and/or cot will be provided for one parent. One parent or legal guardian is welcome to stay over night. Parents/guardians can visit 24 hours a day. If you need additional accommodations outside of the hospital for the second parent/guardian or other family member please contact the Patient Representatives Department at **(212) 263-6906**.
- A small bedside cabinet and locker are provided for each family (except in the **Intensive Care Unit**). Since these spaces are small bring only those items you truly need. It is recommended that you leave valuable items at home to avoid any risk of loss.
- Each bedside is equipped with a television and DVD/VHS players are available for use. CD Boom boxes can be made available on request. The Child Life staff can also provide opportunities for the use of video game systems and computers. *Please note that when your child is being VEEG-monitored, he/she will not be able to utilize the computers in the children's library as this area is not equipped for monitoring, although the playroom is monitor-equipped and will generally be accessible for use.

How to make your child feel at home?

- It can be comforting for your child to bring his/her own pajamas. Button down or zip up pajamas (those that do not need to be slipped over your child's head) is necessary to accommodate the EEG electrodes. In addition, short-sleeved pajamas (or loose long sleeved) are preferable, in case your child has an I.V. in his/her arm.
- Remember to pack slippers and a toothbrush for your child. The hospital does provide disposable toothbrushes but children tend to prefer their own. Slippers are not provided by the hospital.

- It is often helpful to bring a favorite toy, a picture or other small items that will help your child feel more comfortable in the hospital. Your child may also bring a favorite doll, which can be “hooked up” to the EEG monitor as well.

The hospital provides diapers, bottles and formula. However, we do not provide Playtex bottles, pacifiers or baby wipes. If you choose to bring your own bottles or diapers, please discuss this with your child’s nurse. If your child is on special formula, please ask your doctor’s office to speak with the pediatric unit prior to admission to be sure that it is available. Mothers who are breastfeeding are encouraged to continue nursing or pumping breast milk.

Who is there to help?

- Child Life Specialists as well as Art, Music and Recreation Therapists run scheduled groups in the playroom. If your child is unable to join the group program, Child Life staff and volunteers are available to provide activities and therapeutic sessions at bedside.
- Child Life programs are provided daily in the playroom or at your child’s bedside. The Child Life staff is trained to provide activities and therapeutic programs that are adapted to meet your child’s age, needs, and interests.
- The New York City Board of Education provides certified teachers for patients who are enrolled in elementary through high school programs. The teachers assist children in keeping up with schoolwork during their hospital stay and when appropriate, can arrange for home tutoring upon discharge.
- A **Social Worker** may contact you to discuss discharge planning and after-hospital care. You can discuss any issues related to how you, you child and family are coping with the hospital stay and management of your child’s illness.
- **Pastoral Care** is a service provided in an open and respectful way by chaplains who are trained to work in the hospital setting. A chaplain may contact clergy of your own denomination for you. Very often when a child is in the hospital, the family finds comfort knowing that the Pastoral Care Department is available for visits and support. To contact a chaplain while in the hospital dial extension **35903**. During evenings and weekend hours you can reach the chaplain on call by paging (212) 397-9330 ID #26903.

DAY OF ADMISSION

- The Comprehensive Epilepsy Center (CEC) will contact you to confirm the day and time of your child's admission
- Your child's admission may be delayed if there is an unexpected emergency on the unit or a delay in another patient's discharge.
- Upon arriving at the hospital, proceed to the admissions desk located on the first floor of Tisch Hospital. After admission you and your child will be directed to the Pediatric Unit located on the 9th floor of Tisch Hospital.
- After being welcomed and escorted to his/her room, your child will have video EEG leads placed on them.
- Children are generally allowed to go out to the playroom and remain monitored.
- Please note that the library is not equipped for EEG monitoring.
- If there are no overhead monitors available, your child will be hooked up to a portable one that will require him/her to remain in the room. He/she **will** have access to other parts of the room such as the bathroom.
- You and your child will be instructed how to use the event button when he/she is having a seizure or in an emergency.
- Often, admission for EEG monitoring requires an IV to be placed, and blood is drawn to check blood levels and provide medications if necessary.
- A parent or guardian is required to stay with the child at all times. If the parent or guardian must leave for an extended period of time, arrangements must be made in advance with nursing staff.

WHILE IN THE HOSPITAL

DIET

- Your child may continue to eat his/her usual diet while hospitalized, unless specified by the treatment team.
- A pantry is available on the Pediatric Unit that includes a refrigerator, Kosher refrigerator, ice/water machine and a microwave oven.
- A Kosher menu is available through Food Services. Speak to the nursing staff upon your admission to arrange for these meals.
- Due to the special dietary needs of the children on the pediatric unit, food is **not** permitted in the playroom. This is to provide a space where all children can feel welcome to visit and play without the possible temptations of something they are unable to enjoy. The only time food is permitted in this room is during Child Life special events. A weekly calendar of events is posted on the door to the playroom.

MEDICATION

- Your doctor may decide to reduce the dosage of your child's medication in order to observe seizure activity.
- Although the hospital will provide your child's medications, it is best to bring those from home as well.

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS PEDIATRIC STAFF

COMPREHENSIVE EPILEPSY CENTER

Clinical Coordinator: (646) 558-0800

646 558-0800

CHILD LIFE

Pediatric Information Line: (212) 263-1100

Pre-admission Tour-Acute Care Unit: (212) 263-5585

SOCIAL WORK

(212) 263-3818 -or- (212) 263-2726

NURSING

Nurse Manager/9 East: (212) 263-5510

Nurse Manager/(PICU): (212) 263-5788

NUTRITION/FOOD SERVICES

(212) 263-5171

SCHOOL TEACHERS (Board of Education)

(212) 263-5557

PASTORAL CARE DEPARTMENT

Chaplain's Office: (212) 263-5903

Pager Number: (212) 397-9330 ID #26903

PATIENT REPRESENTATIVE DEPARTMENT

(212) 263-6906

***Please note that when dialing from within the hospital, dial 3 and the last four digits of the number.**