I am getting ready to have an operation at Boston Children’s Hospital.
Before my operation day, I will go to the Perioperative Care Coordination Clinic to meet some people who will help me and my parent get ready for my operation.
When I get to the hospital, I will go to the Perioperative Care Coordination Clinic on the first floor and check in at the front desk with my parent.
I will wait in the waiting room until my name is called. While I am waiting for my turn I can play with toys, read a book, or do other activities.
First I will meet a CA (clinical assistant). The CA will measure my vital signs by using different tools. Vital signs help tell the doctors and nurses about my body.
The CA may also put a small clip on my finger called a pulse oximeter. This measures the oxygen in my body.
The CA may also take my temperature. The CA will use a thermometer to do this. She might touch the thermometer to my head and the side of my face near my ear. Or, the thermometer might go in my mouth or in my ear.
The CA may also take my blood pressure by wrapping a piece of cloth around my arm. The cloth will feel very tight but this is ok. This is to learn about how my heart is working.
The CA may also listen to my heart and lungs with a stethoscope. This is to learn about how my heart and lungs are working. The stethoscope might feel a little cold, but this is ok.
The CA might measure how tall I am.
She might also ask me to stand on a scale to learn how much I weigh.
Next I will meet with a nurse in a small room. My parent will come with me.
The nurse will talk to me and my parent about all the things I need to do before my operation. My nurse will ask me and my parent some questions so my doctors know all about me. Maybe my parent will ask the nurse some questions too.
The nurse might examine me to learn about how I’m feeling. She might have me open my mouth and say “Ahh…”
Or look into my ears with her light...
Next the nurse may listen to my heart and lungs with a stethoscope. This is to learn about how my heart and lungs are working. The stethoscope might feel a little cold, but this is ok.
I will meet with a doctor called an Anesthesiologist. The doctor will talk to me and my parent about my operation. I will be asleep during my operation and the doctor will tell us about how I will fall asleep. The doctor might ask my parent some questions about me. Maybe my parent will ask the doctor some questions too.
She might ask my caretaker to sign some papers too.
A different person at the Perioperative Care Coordination Clinic might talk to my parent and my parent might need to sign a lot of papers and forms.
On the day of my Perioperative Care Coordination Clinic Visit, I might have to go to other parts of the hospital to meet with some other doctors and nurses too. I might even meet the doctor who is doing my operation. This area might look similar to this…
Maybe I will go to the Blood Drawing Lab too. Sometimes I will need to get blood work to help my doctor take care of me. If I need to on this day, I will walk to the lab with my parent. (See blood draw story for complete steps.)
After my Perioperative Care Coordination Clinic Visit is finished, it will be time to go home. I will come back to the hospital on the day of my operation.
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