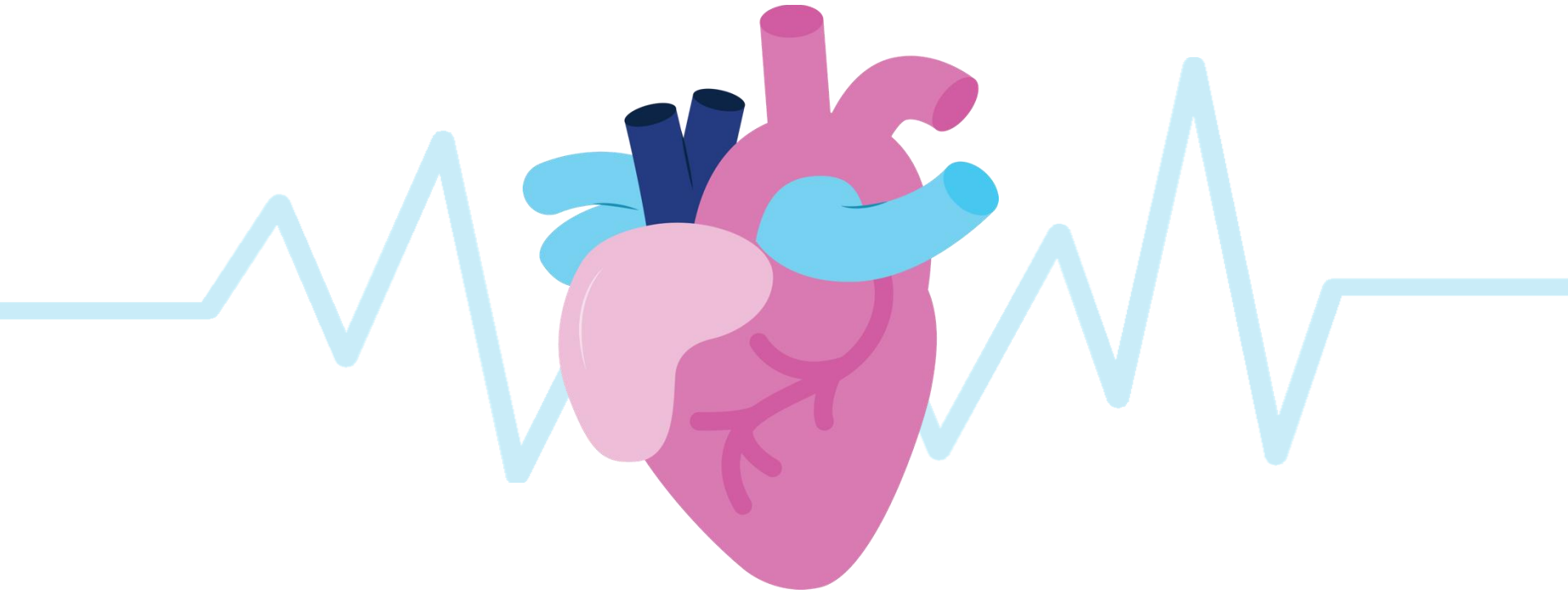


Getting Ready for a Heart Transplant Book



Boston Children's Hospital

Where the world comes for answers

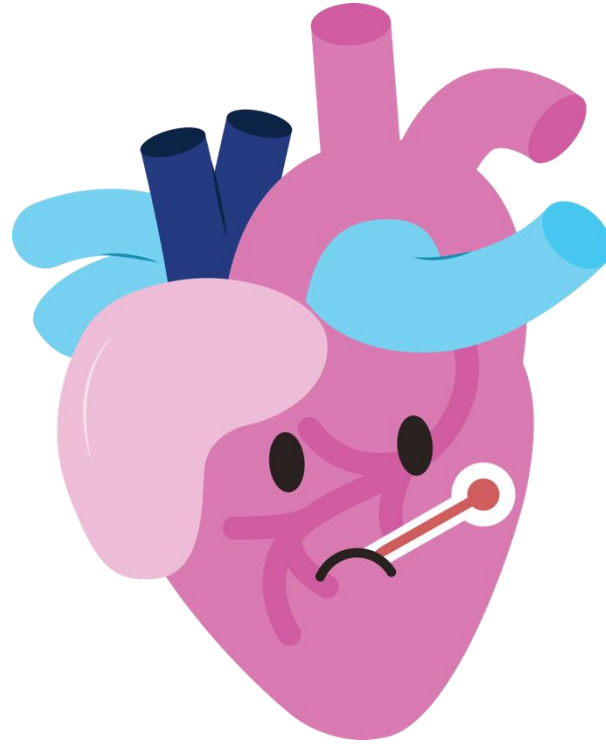


child life services

You may have heard that your heart is sick or isn't working how it's supposed to.

Your heart's job is to pump blood all around your body. Your blood carries oxygen to your body to give it energy to move and play.





When your heart is sick, it has a hard time doing its job. Your doctors might try some medicine to help your heart. If the medicine doesn't help, a heart transplant might be the best way to help your body feel better.

Do you know what a heart transplant is?



A heart transplant is a surgery where doctors give your body a new heart.

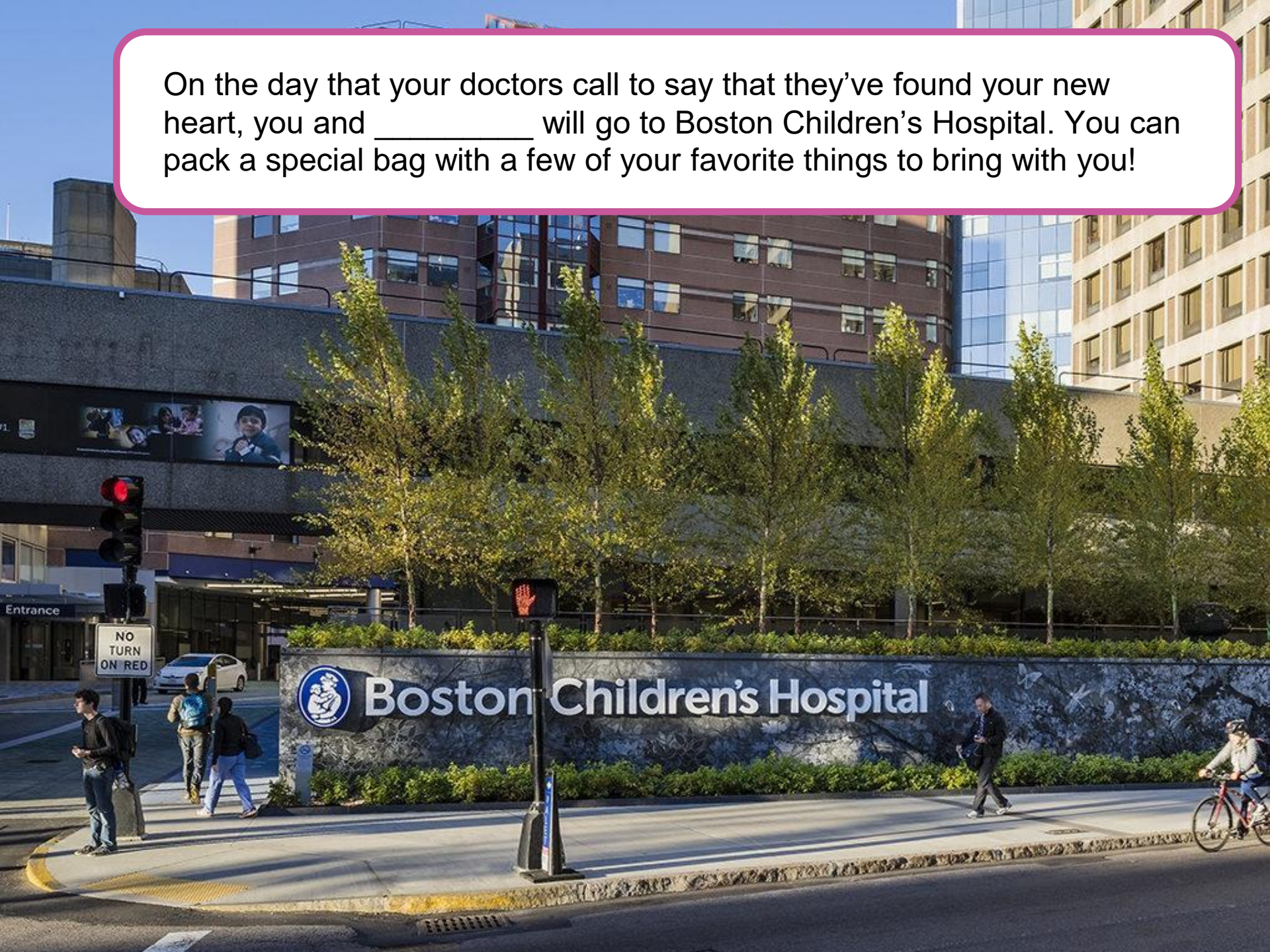
Your doctors want to be sure that your new heart will be the best one for your body. It might take your doctors a long time to find the right heart for you.

That is OK.

The doctors will call _____ when they have found your new heart.



On the day that your doctors call to say that they've found your new heart, you and _____ will go to Boston Children's Hospital. You can pack a special bag with a few of your favorite things to bring with you!





When you arrive at the hospital for your heart transplant, you will go to the Hale building and take the elevator to either the 8th or 9th floor.



This is the part of the hospital where doctors help kids when their heart is sick.



Your room might look like this!

You will meet a nurse when you get to your room. The nurse will help you get ready for your transplant surgery.





You might have to wait many hours until it's time for your transplant. You can ask a Child Life Specialist for toys, activities or games to play while you are waiting.

There will be a team of people taking care of you at the hospital. Before your transplant your team will come see you. They will tell you about how they will help take care of you and ask you and _____ many of the same questions.

That is OK.

They ask questions because we use teamwork at the hospital!





Your team will let you know what you need to do to get ready for your transplant. It's important to stop eating or drinking before your surgery. Sometimes your team will ask you to stop eating and drinking when they have found your new heart. This helps your body get ready for surgery.

You will be asleep for your transplant surgery. The doctors will give you special sleep medicine. They might give you the medicine through a mask or through an IV.



An IV is a small straw that gives your body medicine or water.

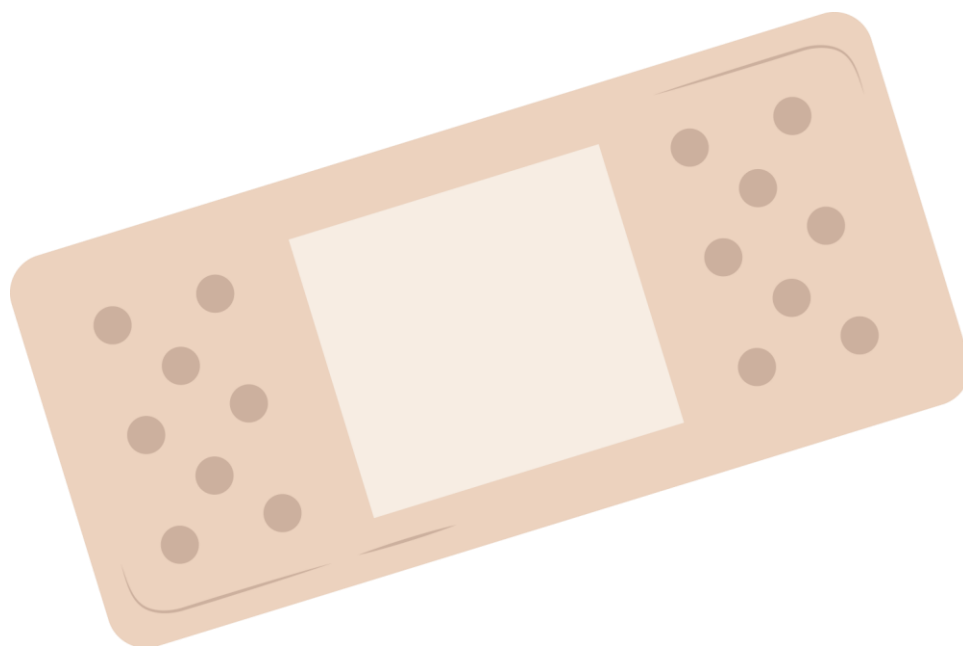




When it's time for surgery, you will go in an elevator to the 6th floor. _____ will come with you! You might hear your team call it the operating room or "OR". Your team will take the best care of you during your heart transplant!



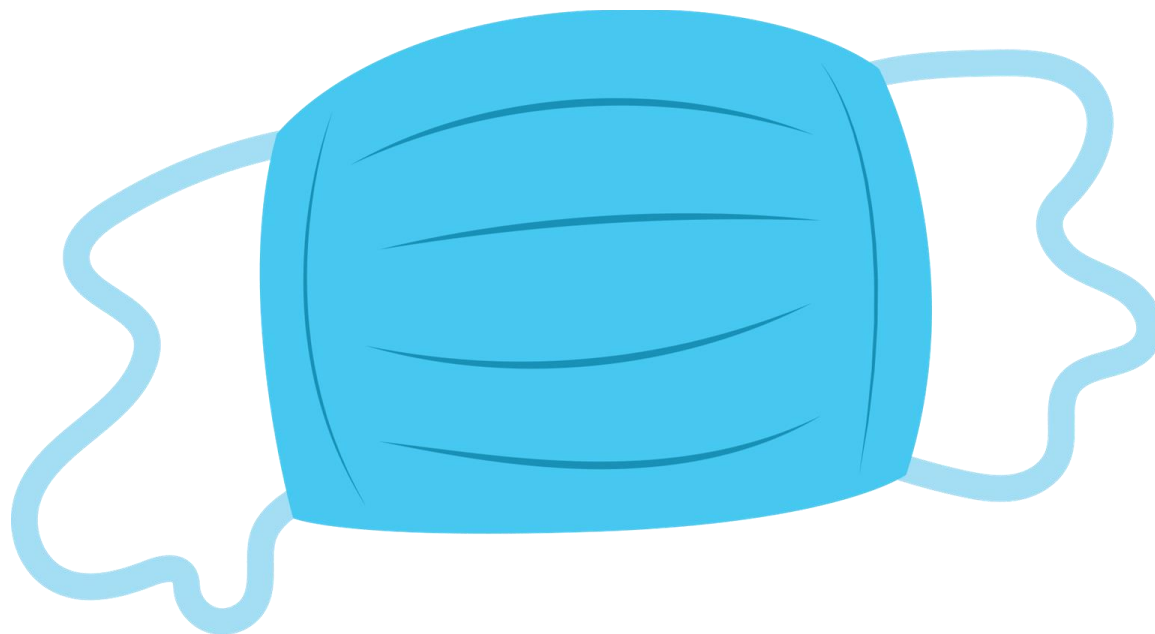
When your new heart and body are ready, it will be time for you to wake up. You will wake up in a new room. That room might have a lot of machines. The machines are there to keep your body safe. _____ will also be there when you wake up!



You will wake up with some new tubes. **That is OK!** They are there to help your body. Your team will tell you when it's time for these tubes to come out. You will also have a Band-Aid like this on your chest where the doctors placed your new heart.



You may have to stay in the hospital for a while after you get your heart transplant. This is so your team can take care of you as your body heals.



You will also need to wear a mask after your transplant when you are around other people. Wearing a mask will help protect your body and new heart from germs.



There are so many fun things to do at the hospital. You can play games, create art or go to the playroom. You can also meet a Music Therapist!



When your team says your body is ready, it will be time to leave the hospital. Everyone will be so proud of you!

_____, do you have
any questions about
your heart transplant?



THE END



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child life services

Developed by:

Child Life Services, Transplant Psychology
and the Pediatric Transplant Center