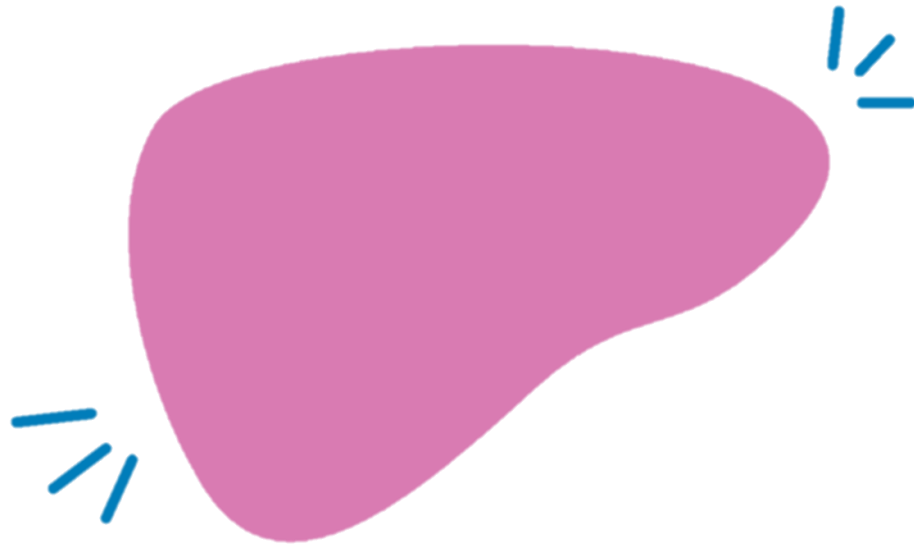


# Getting Ready for a Liver Transplant Book



**Boston Children's Hospital**

Where the world comes for answers

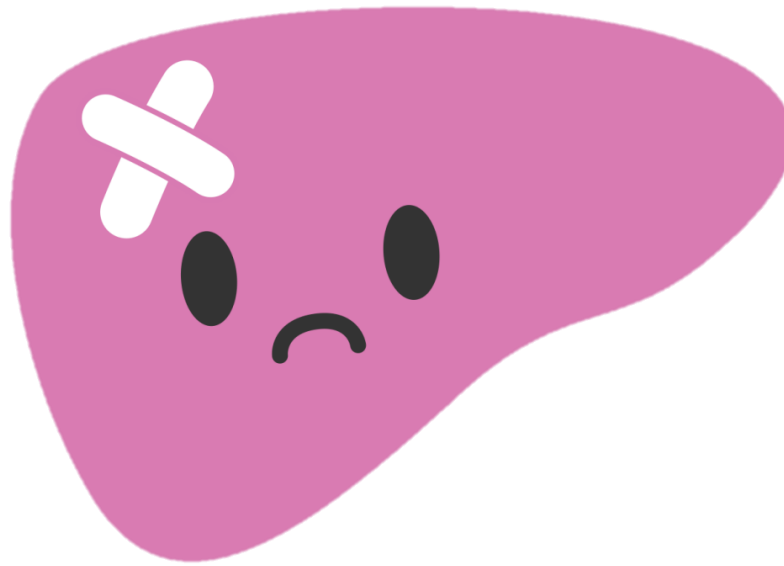


child life services

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

Your liver's job is to clean your blood, store vitamins and energy, and produce bile to help digest food.





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

## Do you know what a liver transplant is?



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

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

**That is OK.**

The doctors will call \_\_\_\_\_ when they have found your new liver.



On the day that your doctors call to say that they've found your new liver, 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 liver transplant, you will go to the Hale building and take the elevator to the 10<sup>th</sup> floor.



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

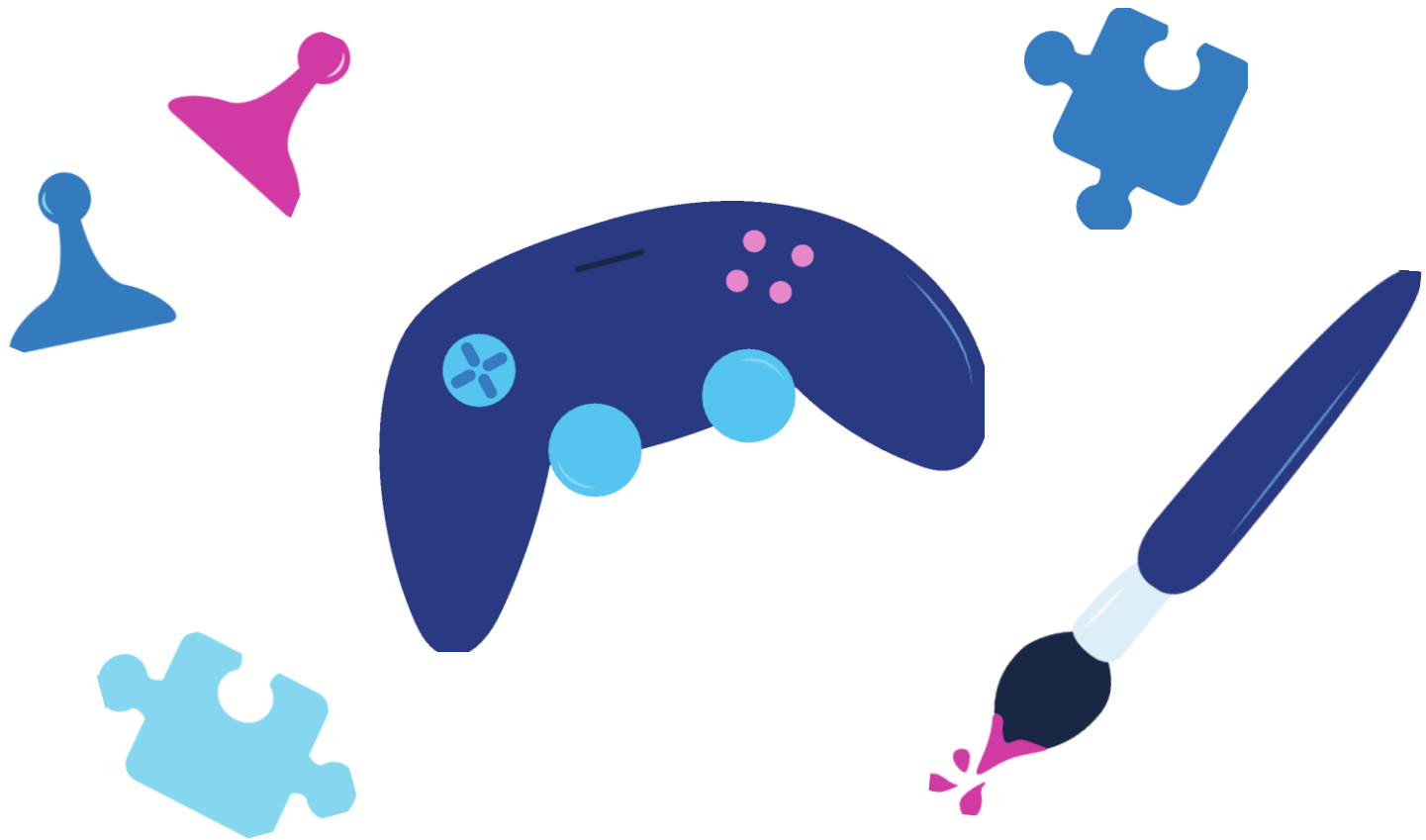


**Your room might look like this!**

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 liver. 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.

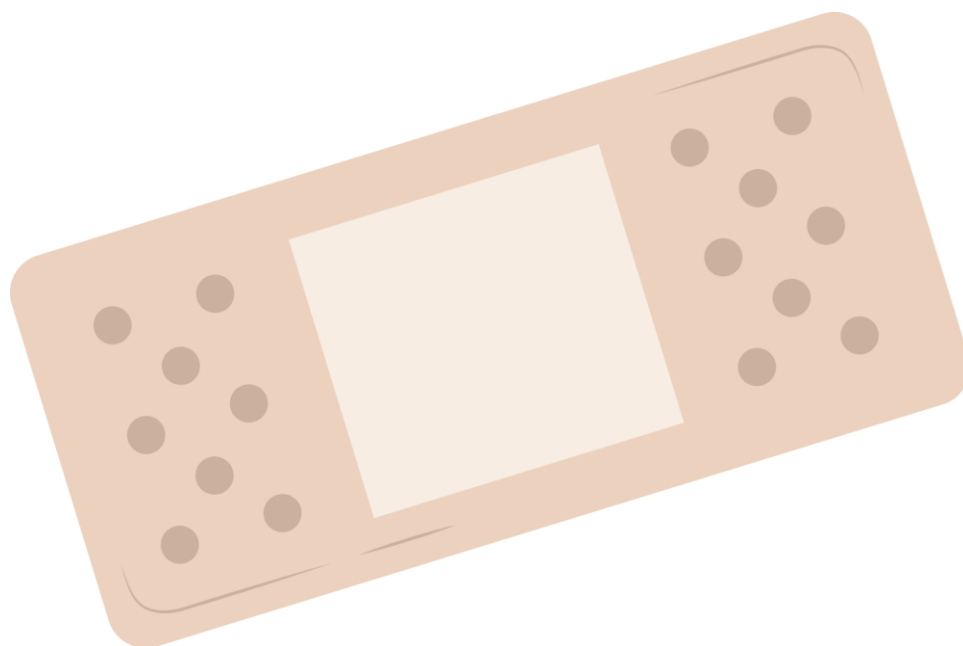




When it's time for surgery, you will go in an elevator to the 3rd floor. \_\_\_\_\_ will come with you! You might hear your team call it the operating room or "OR". Your team will take the best care of you during your liver transplant!



When your new liver 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!

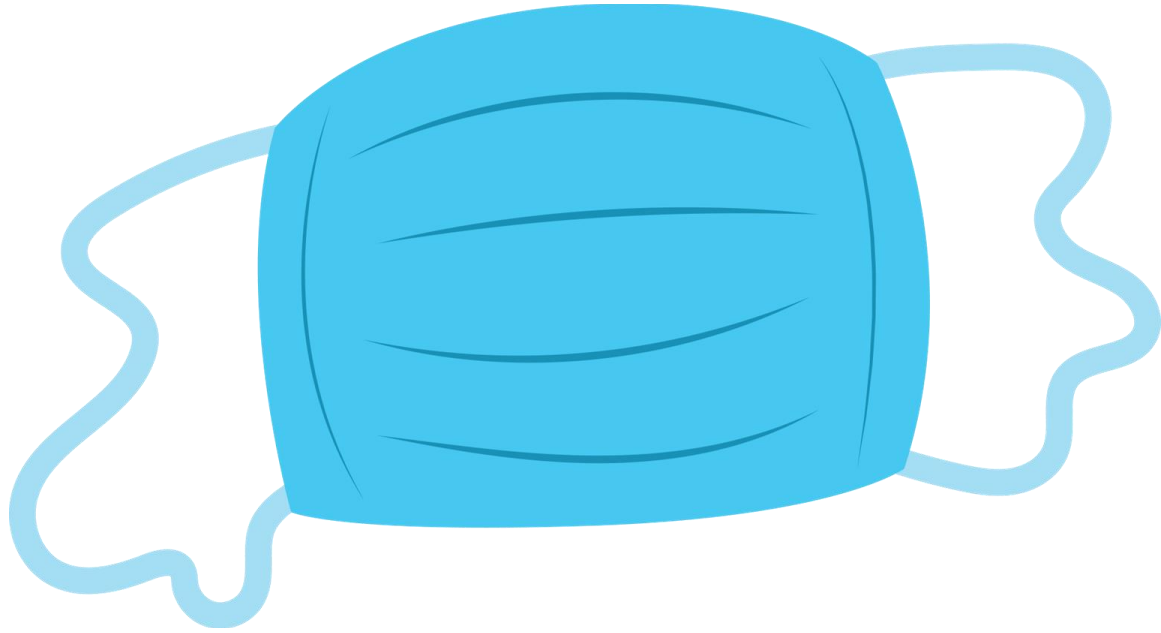


You will wake up with some new tubes. **That is OK!** They are there to help your body. Your team will tell you when it's time for these tubes to come out. You will also have a Band-Aid like this on your belly where the doctors placed your new liver.



You may have to stay in the hospital for a while after you get your liver 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 liver 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 liver transplant?



# THE END



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## **Developed by:**

Child Life Services, Transplant Psychology  
and the Pediatric Transplant Center