

The Safe Patient

An educational patient safety series with free downloadable brochures, a service of The Patient Channel and Safe Care Campaign, in cooperation with the CDC

Safe Care: Infants and Children in the Hospital - What Every Parent Needs to Know

Every year in the United States, more than three million children are hospitalized. For some children the hospital stay is planned, and in other cases it's sudden and unexpected. But there are ways to help make the hospital stay as safe as possible:

- Always ask health care personnel, visitors, and anybody else who comes into the room to **wash or sanitize their hands before and after they care for your child.**
- **Have a list of your child's medications, allergies, family history, and history of previous hospitalizations** available for the health-care team.
- If children are old enough to understand, **instruct them to not touch their bandages, wound or incision.**
- Extremely important to reduce the risks of infection; **limit the number of hospital visitors, especially other children.**

It's important for you to **feel completely comfortable asking care staff any questions that might arise** about your child or baby's care or condition.

