



## 3rd Floor Acute Care Units

# DISCHARGE: GETTING READY TO LEAVE THE HOSPITAL On The Day of Discharge

The day of discharge is often very busy and the preparations can take from several hours to a couple of days to complete. You will be notified 1–2 days before your child’s planned discharge day. When the doctor determines your child is medically ready to leave the hospital, discharge orders are written. The orders include:

- medication for your child
- equipment and supplies needed at home
- special care instructions
- appointments in the outpatient clinic

On the day of discharge, after the doctor finishes rounds, the orders will be written and the nurses will prepare your discharge paperwork. The Case Manager works with the nurses and other departments to make discharge plans.

*“I used to think “discharge” meant the time we walked out the hospital doors with our son. Now, I understand it includes all the steps to prepare for caring for him at home.”*



### Parent Discharge Checklist

- Pack up your belongings
- Have “street” clothes ready for your child to wear home
- Arrange transportation
- Arrange local lodging if you are not going home
- Pick up medications from the outpatient pharmacy
- Review the Preparing to Go Home checklist and ask any unanswered questions (Need an interpreter?)
- Confirm home care instructions, outpatient appointments, and home care nursing if this applies.

### Activities You May Experience On the Day of Discharge

- ❖ IVs, lines, and tubes placed or removed depending on your child’s needs
- ❖ Final tests and checks on your child’s medical condition
- ❖ Confirmation of delivery of supplies and equipment to your home
- ❖ A final check up from a doctor (this may occur during morning rounds)
- ❖ Review with your nurse: the teaching, the discharge summary, and an opportunity to ask more questions



*“One time, we were all set for discharge: supplies delivered to our home, medication picked up. We had even put everything in the car and then my daughter got a fever! It was so disappointing since we were all ready to go but we stayed a couple more days which was best for her.”*

### Tips from Parents

- ✓ Ask what test/procedures your child will need before you go home
- ✓ Keep some items handy to entertain your child while the discharge plans are being completed