



The Heart Center Parent Hour

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

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
- follow-up appointments

The day of discharge is often very busy and the preparations can take from several hours to a couple of days to complete. You may even notice some discharge activities happening two days before you actually go home. The Case Manager works with the nurses and other departments to make discharge plans.

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

"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."

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
- ❖ Review of the teaching, discharge summary and opportunity to ask more questions
- ❖ A final check up from a doctor

"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."

