



FAMILY *to* FAMILY

The Bass Center Parent Hour

DISCHARGE: GETTING READY TO LEAVE THE HOSPITAL

Thinking Ahead: Care-giving At Home

After you leave the hospital and begin the care of your child at home, there may be new tasks to work into your daily family schedule. It may take extra time and planning in the beginning to work these tasks into your daily family schedule.

- Clinic appointments
- Giving medication
- Caring for the line
- Lab work
- Watching for illness

“When we first got home it felt like every minute I was doing something medical! There was so much to do! Pretty quickly, we made things very routine and it didn’t feel like each day’s tasks were brand new.”

BEFORE You Leave the Hospital

Planning Ahead for the Unexpected

- ★ Learn how to take a temperature
- ★ Read in the Family Handbook:

When and Where to Call with Questions

- ★ Locate your local Emergency Department (ED)
- ★ Talk to your social worker if you have no phone at home

“It was hard for me to make the call the first time. I was worried about bothering them or asking a dumb question. But it was a good thing because she was sick and I needed help.”

When Your child is sick:

- Review: When and Where to Call with Questions (Family Handbook)
- Watch your child –track of the symptoms
- When to call in:
 - when symptoms are within guidelines
 - when you have questions or concerns
- Making the call
 - ask for an interpreter if needed
 - day time calls/night time calls
 - tell the provider about the symptoms
- Be ready to respond:
 - continue to monitor and call back
 - instructions to go to the local Emergency Department

Tips from Other Parents

- ❖ Follow the medical guidelines about restarting your child’s activities
- ❖ Use hospital programs to help your child get back to regular activities as much as possible
- ❖ Teach your family and friends about hand washing and infection control

