Your Child’s Trip to the SurgiCenter
A Parents Guide to Outpatient Surgery
Your Child’s Trip to the SurgiCenter:  

Tour for Your Child  

For children ages 3 and up, a tour of our facility may be arranged prior to the procedure. It is designed to provide information and reduce anxiety for both you and your child. To arrange a tour, contact us at 484-628-3050.

The Reading Hospital SurgiCenter at Spring Ridge is certified by the state of Pennsylvania to perform pediatric surgery. We understand the significant differences between pediatric and adult patients. Our nurses and anesthesiologists are specially trained in the perioperative care of the pediatric population. In addition, they are certified in Pediatric Advanced Life Support. Our experienced and friendly healthcare team will guide and support you and your child through the surgical experience.

Important Telephone Numbers:  

- The Reading Hospital SurgiCenter at Spring Ridge  
  484-628-3050  
- Preoperative nurse at the SurgiCenter  
  484-628-3024  
- Billing Questions  
  484-628-3072  

Coming to the SurgiCenter:  

From Route 222:  

- Take the Broadcasting Road exit.  
- Go past the Spring Ridge Elementary School and turn left on Keiser Boulevard.  
- Turn left at the Reading Hospital sign.  
- Go past the first building and driveway to the SurgiCenter parking lot. Our brick building will be on your left.  
- Take the elevator to the 3rd floor and check in at the Registration Desk.

From State Hill Road:  

- Turn at the traffic light onto Westview Drive.  
- Take the second right, at the Reading Hospital sign, onto Keiser Boulevard.  
- Go past the first building and driveway to the SurgiCenter parking lot. Our brick building will be on your left.  
- Take the elevator to the 3rd floor and check in at the Registration Desk.
Insurance & Financial Information

The Reading Hospital SurgiCenter at Spring Ridge has worked with your physician’s office to obtain the insurance and financial information needed to submit your insurance claim. As a convenience to you, our billing staff will make every effort to check your insurance coverage, based on the information that was provided to us. However, it is the patient’s responsibility to ensure that the physician’s office has the most updated insurance information to expedite payment of the insurance claim (i.e., referrals and preauthorizations). If our billing staff determines that you will be responsible for all or any portion of your bill, they will attempt to contact you prior to your surgery date. You will be given an estimate of any copayment or deductible your insurance company may require. Please be prepared to pay the copayments and deductibles on the day of surgery. Any patients without insurance or whose insurance does not cover the surgical procedure to be performed should also make arrangements to pay their facility fees on the day of surgery. For your convenience, we accept cash, personal checks, money orders, cashier’s checks, Visa, and MasterCard. Regardless of the type of insurance you may have, ultimate responsibility for the SurgiCenter bill rests with the patient or guarantor. If your insurance company does not make payment within 60 days of submission, the account will become your responsibility and payment in full will be required.

You will receive separate bills for the following:

- Your child’s surgeon, dentist, or podiatrist.
- Anesthesia – if your child received general anesthesia or required sedation administered by anesthesia personnel.
- Laboratory Tests – for any lab tests required prior to, during, or after surgery.
- Radiology/Imaging – for any x-ray services required prior to, during, or after surgery.
- Pathology – for the examination of any tissue or specimen removed during surgery.

If you have any questions about your bill, insurance issues, or financial responsibilities, you may contact the billing office at 484-628-3072.

Preparing Your Child For Surgery:

Once your child’s surgery is scheduled, please visit reading.towerhealth.org/surgicenter and click on the “One Medical Passport” link to complete the health history. This questionnaire will take less than 15 minutes to complete and can be done in the privacy of your home. The information is confidential and will be reviewed by one of our nurses. We may contact you to discuss your child’s health history once we review it.

If you do not have access to a computer, one of our nurses will contact you to complete the health history or you can contact us at 484-628-3024 Monday through Friday between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m.

Your child’s surgery may be cancelled if we are unable to obtain your child’s health history.

Please note: One to two days before the surgery date, you will be notified of your child’s exact arrival time. This time is usually one hour before the start of your operation.

If you are unable to keep your appointment or if you are delayed, please contact the SurgiCenter immediately at 484-628-3050.
Medications

Please have your child take their medications for the following with a sip of water the morning of your procedure:

- Asthma
- Blood Pressure
- Cholesterol (only if normally taken in the morning)
- Chronic Pain
- Depression
- Glaucoma
- Heart
- Seizures
- Steroids
- Stomach

DO NOT take:
- Diabetic medications, including insulin
  - MAO inhibitors
- Diuretics
  - potassium

Following Surgery:

- Your child may feel sleepy.
- Your child may feel nauseous. Give your child ginger ale and crackers to relieve the queasiness.
- There may be slight oozing from the incision. Please review the discharge instructions to reinforce expectations related to the surgical site.
- Your child may have pain. We will discuss pain relieving measures at time of discharge.

Contact the Surgeon If:

- Your child’s nausea/vomiting persist, despite ginger ale and crackers.
- You are concerned by the amount of bleeding or possible infection at the surgical site.
- Your child’s pain is not relieved by prescribed medication.
- You have concerns which are not addressed on the discharge instructions provided by your surgeon.
During Surgery:

- **You must remain on the 3rd floor of the SurgiCenter during your child’s procedure.**
- In the Operating Room, your child will breathe through a mask and fall asleep. An IV site will be started at this time, and will be present when they awaken in recovery.
- After the surgery is complete, your child will go to the Recovery Room. You will be brought in to sit by your child’s bedside as your child awakens.
- A Recovery Room nurse will assess your child’s vital signs and treat pain and nausea as needed.
- Once the nurse determines your child is awake and the pain and nausea has been controlled, a drink and snack will be offered.
- The nurse will review discharge instructions with you and answer any questions.
- Your child will be allowed to dress and be discharged once they have been signed out by the anesthesia doctor.

Prior to Surgery:

- Complete any tests necessary for the procedure, as instructed by the surgeon/pediatrician.
- Review and follow the preoperative instructions, as provided by the surgeon, this brochure, and the SurgiCenter nurse.
- Notify your surgeon if your child becomes ill, develops a rash, or suffers from an asthma attack within two weeks of the scheduled procedure.
- Remember to bring your child’s health benefit identification cards and any applicable Power of Attorney documents.
- **Parents are required to remain on the 3rd floor of the facility during their child’s procedure. Please make necessary arrangements to meet this requirement.**

If you have not spoken to our nurse within 48 hours of the scheduled surgery, please call the SurgiCenter at 484-628-3024, Monday through Friday, between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m.
The Night before Surgery:
- Do not allow your child to eat solid food after midnight.
- Do not give your child medications after midnight unless instructed in the medication section of this brochure or instructed by the doctor.

The Morning of Surgery:
- Up to two hours before the scheduled arrival time, your child may drink clear liquids including water, apple juice, and ginger ale.
- YOUR CHILD ABSOLUTELY MAY NOT HAVE MILK PRODUCTS, ORANGE JUICE, HONEY, HARD CANDY, OR GUM.
- Give medications as instructed by the medication section of this brochure.
- Bring medications for asthma and Insulin Dependent Diabetes Mellitus along to the SurgiCenter.
- Dress your child in pajamas or loose fitting, comfortable clothing. You are encouraged to bring a full change of clothing.
- Allow your child to bring a favorite toy to take into the Operating Room.

Arriving at the SurgiCenter:
- The SurgiCenter at Spring Ridge is located on the 3rd floor of 2603 Keiser Boulevard in Wyomissing. You may park anywhere in the front of the building.
- After signing in, the receptionist will ask you to verify personal information.
- Next, you and your child will be called to the preoperative area.
- The preoperative registered nurse will ask questions about your child’s health and medications, as well as assess their temperature, heart rate, and blood pressure.
- Your child will be seen by their surgeon and an anesthesiologist prior to the procedure. They will explain the surgical plan and answer questions.