

COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE PARENTAL PRESENCE AT ANAESTHESIA INDUCTION (PPI) PROGRAM

Do I have to accompany my child into the Operating Room?

- No, it is optional. If you choose not to participate in the program, you and your child will have the full support of the health care team.

Why would a child and his/her parent/caregiver not be able to participate in the PPI program?

- The child may not be within the approved age group.
- The child has had anaesthetic complications, and airway or medical difficulties.
- The child has malignant hyperthermia (MH) or family history of MH.
- The child is having an urgent, emergent or on-call surgery.
- The child has expressed or displayed body language that indicates that they do not want the parent/caregiver to accompany him/her.
- The parent/caregiver is pregnant and will not be accepted in the program to avoid unnecessary exposure of anaesthetic medications. We are unable to protect pregnant mothers from these medications during an inhalation (mask) induction.
- The parent/caregiver is not displaying supportive behaviours toward the child.
- The parent/caregiver is uncomfortable with his/her potential role in the Operating Room.

Why can't both parents/caregivers accompany a child into the Operating Room for the start of anaesthesia?

- Both parents/caregivers play a role in the support and care of the child. Yet, we have learned that it is easier for the child to focus on one parent/caregiver at the start of anaesthesia. While the child is going to sleep in the Operating Room, we encourage you to talk to and comfort the child as you would at home.

What are the criteria for choosing a parent/caregiver to accompany a child?

- The parent/caregiver should be healthy, have a calming influence on the child and must feel comfortable with his/her potential role.
- The parent/caregiver must be willing to participate in an education session to learn about his/her role and responsibilities in Operating Room.

If I am not the biological parent, may I still participate in the PPI program?

- The most appropriate person to accompany the child is one who will be able to provide the necessary comfort and support to the child. This selection is individualized and does not have to be the biological parent.

If my child cries does that mean the start of anaesthesia was bad?

- Children cry for many reasons, especially when they are tired, hungry, in pain or upset. Some children, especially preschoolers, may cry when the mask is first placed over their mouth and nose, or when they notice a change in the environment. This is normal at their stage of development.
- A parent/caregiver's reassurance, calming words and gentle touch can be a support for the child.