



## **Welcome to Children's Hospital**

### **Direct Referrals for Orthopedics**

Here is some information about why you have been asked to attend today, what you can expect, and to answer questions you may have.

Your Doctor or Nursing Station has asked you to come here today to be assessed by one of our Pediatric Orthopaedic Surgeons.

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

#### **Why have I been asked to come to the Emergency Department instead of an Orthopedic Clinic?**

You have been referred here by a doctor/practitioner that feels this is the best place to be reassessed and seen by a specialist. The Orthopedic team does not work with the Emergency Department but the triage nurse will page (contact) them to notify that you are here and waiting to be seen.

The Emergency Department is staffed by qualified Nurses who are available to help you and your child with matters such as comfort measures and pain medication.

We are also located right by the X-ray department if your child needs to be x-rayed as per the Orthopedic Surgeon's request.

#### **How long will this take?**

The Emergency Department has no control over this. You have been asked to come to the Emergency Department to see a Pediatric Orthopedic Surgeon, not an Emergency Doctor. In most cases an Emergency Doctor will have already seen your child.

The Surgeon for your child knows that you are here and will see you as soon as possible. This Surgeon will be the one who decides on the best course of treatment for your child after talking with you.

The Orthopedic Surgeon you are waiting to see knows you are waiting but may have to treat other patients first.

The Surgeon will see you as soon as possible. The staff in the Emergency Department will keep you informed. If you have a question, please ask. The staff will be happy to answer you.

#### **Why are other patients being seen before me?**

Patients who appear to be going in ahead of you are most likely patients who are waiting to be seen by the Emergency Doctors for other injuries and illnesses.

There may be other children waiting to be seen by the Orthopedic Surgeon. You are waiting to see the Pediatric Orthopedic Surgeon to whom you have been referred.

#### **What if my child is in pain?**

Even though you have been referred to the Orthopedic Surgeon, don't feel that you must wait until you see them to tell someone if your child is in pain. Please talk to the nurse at triage. The nurse will arrange for your child to be seen and given appropriate pain medication.

#### **Can my child eat or drink?**

It is best for your child not to eat or drink until they have been assessed by the Orthopedic Surgeon.



If your child needs surgery, it is important that your child has not had anything to eat or drink. Please ask the staff if you have any questions.

### **Does my child need an operation?**

This is something that your Orthopedic Surgeon will decide. They need to assess your child's injury and may need to take some x-rays.

Once they have seen you, they will discuss the injury and recommend the best treatment for your child.

### **Who can tell me whether my child needs to be admitted to the hospital or needs an operation?**

The nurse or other staff will not know the answer to this question. This is something the Orthopedic Surgeon will decide after assessing your child and speaking with you.