



Children's National™

Chaplaincy Services



When Your
Child is Facing
Surgery or
a Difficult
Medical
Treatment/
Procedure



God, my child is about to have surgery. So many people will be involved.

But my child is the only one having surgery. I am thankful for the skill of the surgeon and all those who will be assisting; I am thankful for the love of those who will be waiting for/with me. But I ask for the assurance of Your presence as well. Let your peace and strength fill all the operating room to its very corners. Let your protection surround my child and all those performing this surgery. Hold us, hold them in Your steadfast love through these next hours and bring about the healing I believe You desire for all Your children.



There are some things we have to go through on the way from illness or injury to healing and wholeness. Some of them aren't too bad: a little extra rest, a few pills, an x-ray. But some of the ways toward feeling and getting better are a lot harder.

Having surgery is always a little frightening, and we know that recovery involves more, or different, pain. And surgery usually means that you need to be in the hospital a little longer, too.

And there are other procedures and treatments that can be somewhat

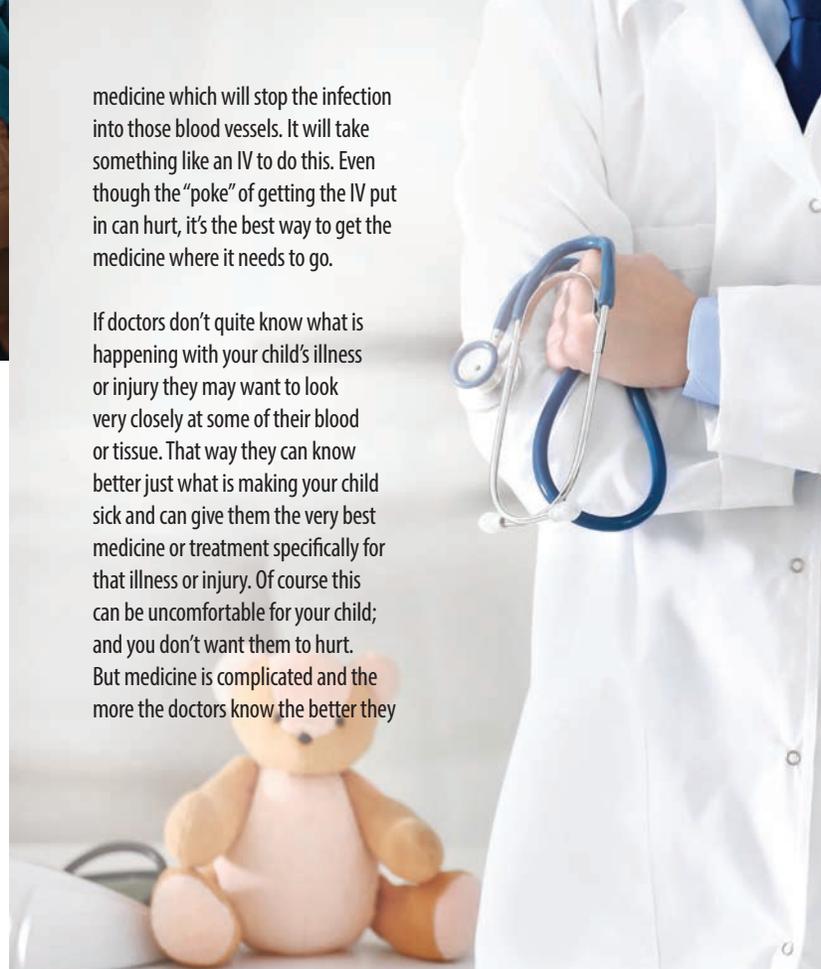
frightening and even painful. Like placing an IV, or a broviac, or a PIC line... like getting a biopsy... like having chemotherapy.

So many of the things we do to improve your health and lessen your injury or illness seem almost as hard to endure as your real illness or injury. That's because your child has an illness or injury in their body. But their body can also use the medicines to help them get better.

For instance, if there is an infection that's moving through the blood vessels, doctors have to get the

medicine which will stop the infection into those blood vessels. It will take something like an IV to do this. Even though the "poke" of getting the IV put in can hurt, it's the best way to get the medicine where it needs to go.

If doctors don't quite know what is happening with your child's illness or injury they may want to look very closely at some of their blood or tissue. That way they can know better just what is making your child sick and can give them the very best medicine or treatment specifically for that illness or injury. Of course this can be uncomfortable for your child; and you don't want them to hurt. But medicine is complicated and the more the doctors know the better they





“ ...medicine is complicated and the more the doctors know the better they can make plans with you for good treatment. ”

can make plans with you for good treatment.

It's okay to be anxious and uncomfortable about all of these things happening. Your child can tell people just how they feel – tell everyone! They can ask for someone to come and explain what is going to happen. They can come again and again and again until you feel you understand. Child Life specialists are really good at telling you about, and showing you, what any procedure or treatment is going to look like and what it may feel like. Sometimes, if you want company, a Child Life Specialist can even be with you while you have the procedure.

If you and your family believe in God, saying a prayer can help you feel calm and even braver. You can say prayers yourself, with your family, or a hospital chaplain can come and pray with you. God, my child is going to have a special



treatment/procedure soon. Help me to understand what is happening and how this will help my child. I am worried and anxious. I don't want my child to feel more pain. But I want everything done that will really help. So help my child to bear the pain or discomfort. Help my child to be calm. May this treatment/procedure help the doctors to help my child. May Your hand and wisdom guide all who are caring for me/my child.



**For more information, contact your chaplains
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