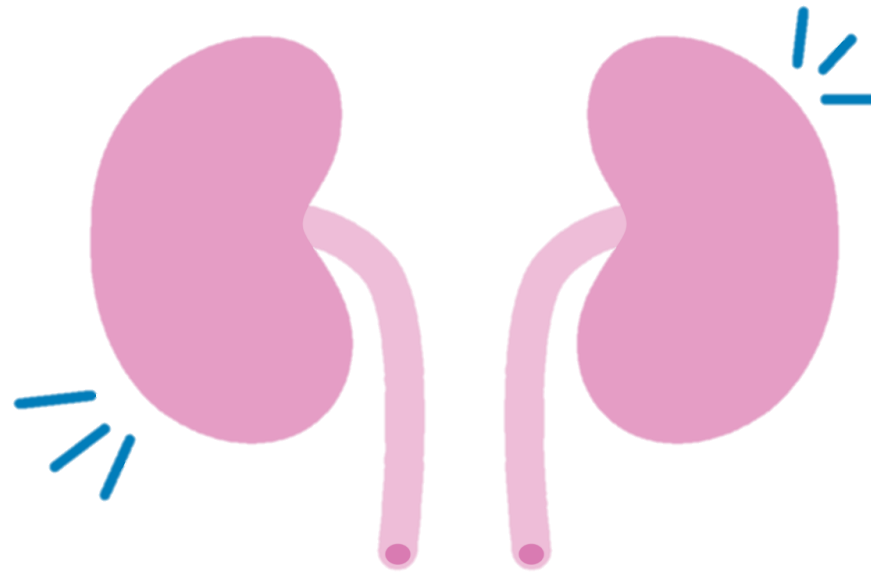


Getting Ready for a Kidney Transplant Book



Boston Children's Hospital

Where the world comes for answers

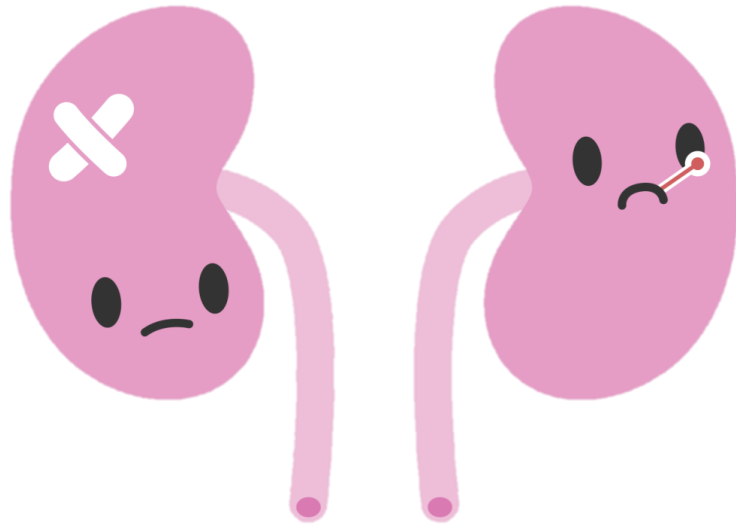


child life services

You may have heard that your kidneys are sick or aren't working how they are supposed to.

Your kidney's job is to keep your body healthy by cleaning your blood and helping you pee.





When your kidneys are sick, they have a hard time doing their job. Your doctors might try some medicine to help your kidneys. If the medicine doesn't help, a kidney transplant might be the best way to help your body feel better.

Do you know what a kidney transplant is?



A kidney transplant is a surgery where doctors give your body a new kidney.

Your doctors want to be sure that your new kidneys will be the best ones for your body. It might take your doctors a long time to find the right kidneys for you.

That is OK.

The doctors will call _____ when they have found your new kidneys.



On the day that your doctors call to say that they've found your new kidneys, you and _____ will go to Boston Children's Hospital. You can pack a special bag with a few of your favorite things to bring with you!





When you arrive at the hospital for your kidney transplant, you will go to the Hale building and take the elevator to the 10th floor.



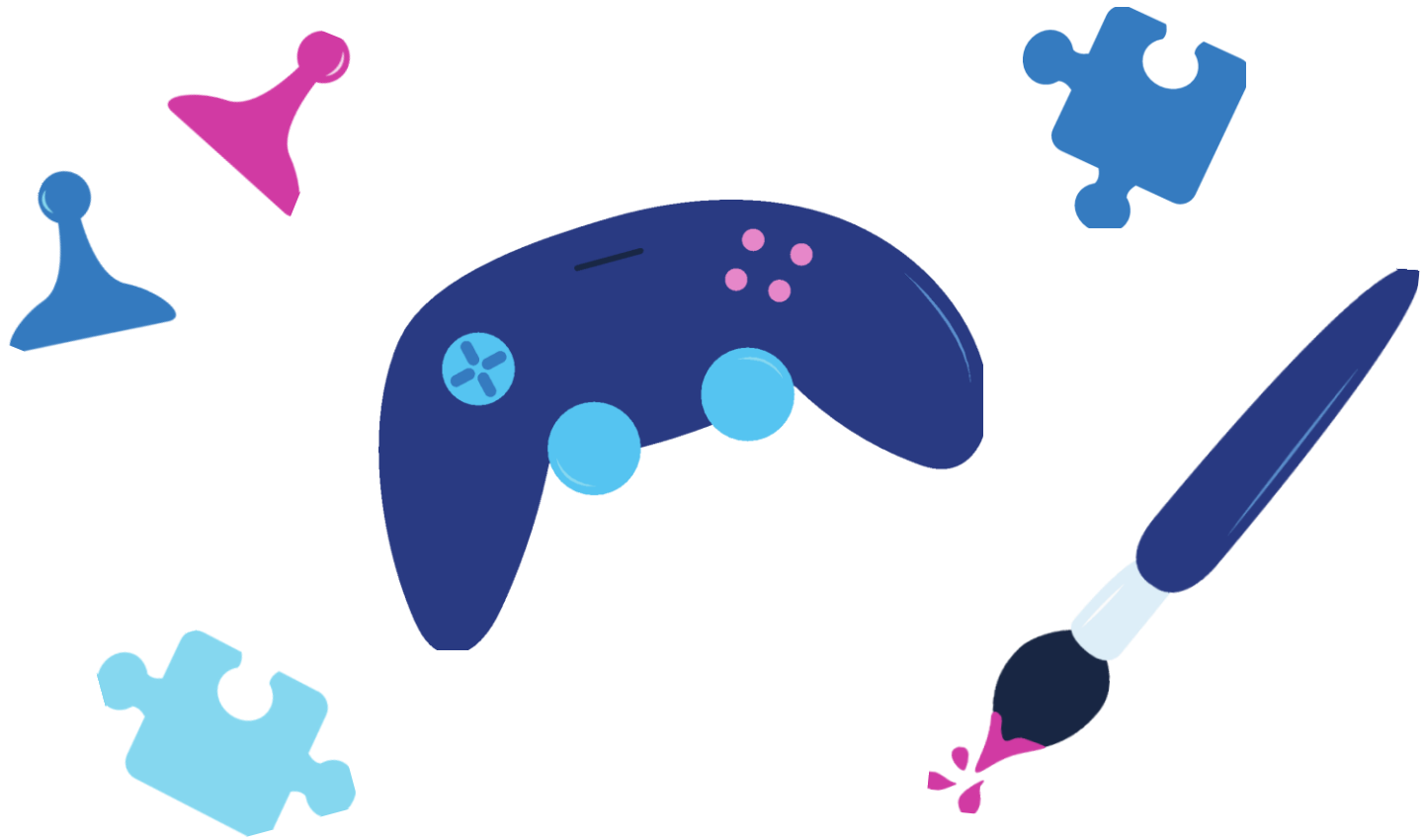
This is the part of the hospital where doctors help kids when their kidneys are sick.



Your room might look like this!

You will meet a nurse when you get to your room. The nurse will help you get ready for your transplant surgery.





You might have to wait many hours until it's time for your transplant. You can ask a Child Life Specialist for toys, activities or games to play while you are waiting.

There will be a team of people taking care of you at the hospital. Before your transplant your team will come see you. They will tell you about how they will help take care of you and ask you and _____ many of the same questions.

That is OK.

They ask questions because we use teamwork at the hospital!





Your team will let you know what you need to do to get ready for your transplant. It's important to stop eating or drinking before your surgery. Sometimes your team will ask you to stop eating and drinking when they have found your new kidneys. This helps your body get ready for surgery.

You will be asleep for your transplant surgery. The doctors will give you special sleep medicine. They might give you the medicine through a mask or through an IV.



An IV is a small straw that gives your body medicine or water.

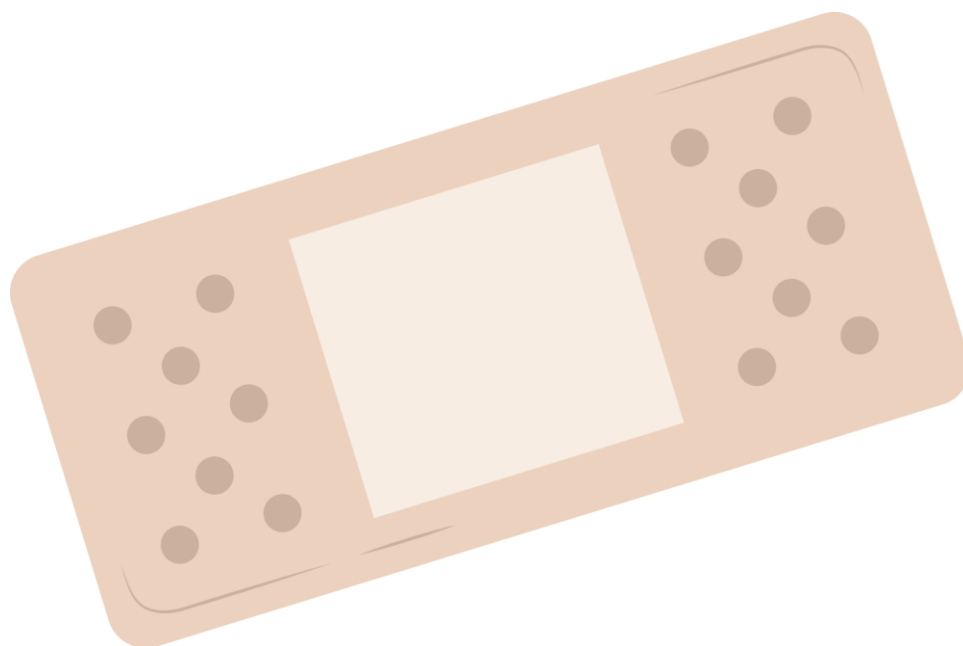




When it's time for surgery, you will go in an elevator to the 3rd floor. _____ will come with you! You might hear your team call it the operating room or "OR". Your team will take the best care of you during your kidney transplant!



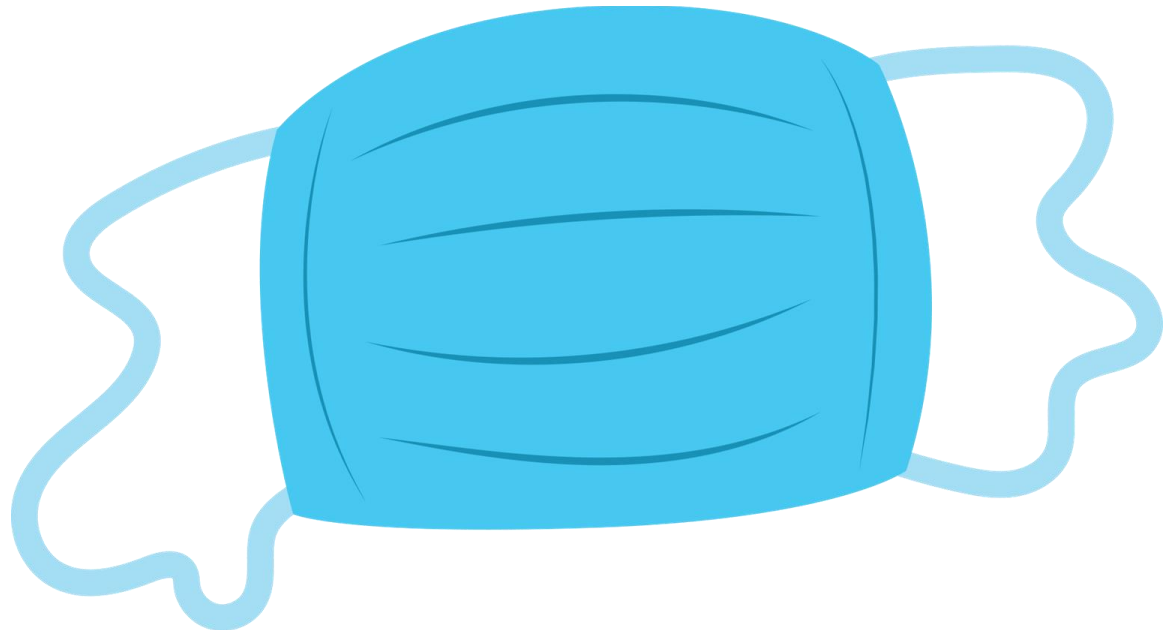
When your new kidney and body are ready, it will be time for you to wake up. You will wake up in a new room. That room might have a lot of machines. The machines are there to keep your body safe. _____ will also be there when you wake up!



You will wake up with some new tubes. **That is OK!** They are there to help your body. Your team will tell you when it's time for these tubes to come out. You will also have a Band-Aid like this on your belly where the doctors placed your new kidneys.



You may have to stay in the hospital for a while after you get your kidney transplant. This is so your team can take care of you as your body heals.



You will also need to wear a mask after your transplant when you are around other people. Wearing a mask will help protect your body and new kidneys from germs.



There are so many fun things to do at the hospital. You can play games, create art or go to the playroom. You can also meet a Music Therapist!



When your team says your body is ready, it will be time to leave the hospital. Everyone will be so proud of you!

_____, do you have
any questions about
your kidney transplant?



THE END



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child life services

Developed by:

Child Life Services, Transplant Psychology
and the Pediatric Transplant Center