



ANZCA
FPM

**ANAESTHESIA
AND CHILDREN**

PATIENT INFORMATION 4

After your child's anaesthesia

After your child's surgical procedure is over, your anaesthetist will stop administering anaesthetic medicines and begin the wake-up process. When it is safe to do so, the anaesthetist will escort your child to the post-anaesthesia care unit (PACU) and hand care over to a trained recovery room nurse, who will continue to monitor your child throughout the wake-up period and will make sure that your child is comfortable and safe.

When will my child be able to eat and drink again after surgery?

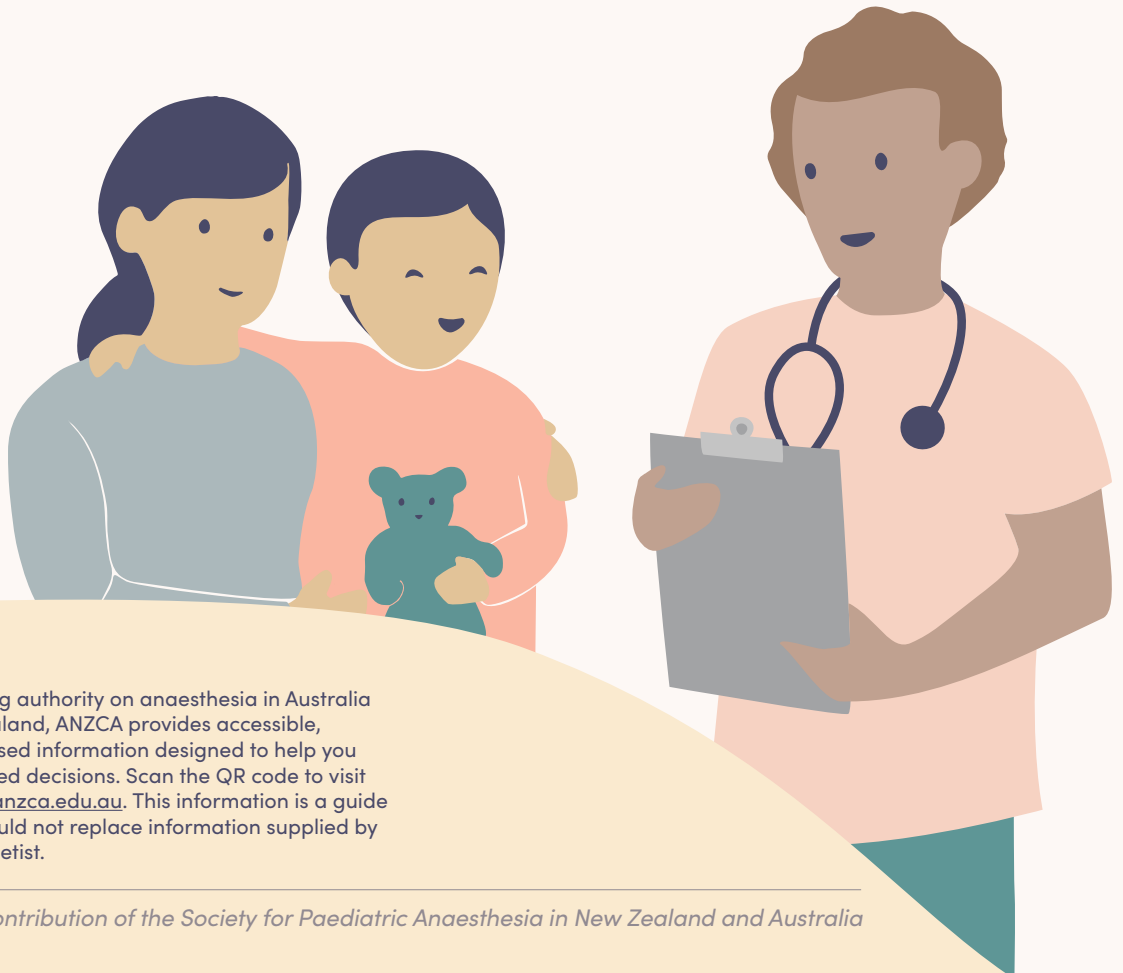
In accordance with instructions from your anaesthetist and surgeon, the recovery nurse may offer food and fluids after your child is awake.

Will my child experience side effects from the anaesthesia?

Recovery room nurses are skilled at assessing issues such as discomfort, hunger, and thirst. Occasionally, children are agitated or confused upon waking from general anaesthesia. This condition is not serious, stops relatively quickly, and the child does not usually remember this. It is often helpful for smaller children to have a familiar toy with them at this stage. If necessary, a sedating medicine may be given to settle this agitation.

Will my child need any post-anaesthesia care?

Following a day procedure, your child will be able to go home when the surgeon and anaesthetist are happy with your child's condition and confirm that it is safe to do so. The recovery nursing staff will give you information about your child's post-procedure care, including repeating the instructions given to you by the anaesthetist before the procedure. This will help you assess and care for your child's comfort at home.



As the leading authority on anaesthesia in Australia and New Zealand, ANZCA provides accessible, evidence-based information designed to help you make informed decisions. Scan the QR code to visit our website anzca.edu.au. This information is a guide only and should not replace information supplied by your anaesthetist.