



Children's  
of Alabama

Dear Fellow Colleagues,

Emerging trends in the perioperative care of pediatric tonsillectomy patients stimulated examination of current practice at Children's of Alabama. After thorough review of the relevant literature related to the perioperative care of pediatric tonsillectomy patients, including published studies, clinical guidelines, and recommendations from the Society of Pediatric Anesthesia, the attached guideline was developed for scheduling outpatient tonsillectomy procedures. These adjustments to our clinical practice at Children's of Alabama are reflective of current practice at pediatric institutions across the country.

Beginning January 2, 2013, the following patients must be admitted for overnight observation with continuous pulse oximetry following tonsillectomy and will not be scheduled at Children's South Surgery Center:

1. Patients under the age of 3 years.
2. Patients with a history of sleep disordered breathing who have a sleep study showing moderate to severe sleep apnea.
3. Patients with comorbidities predisposing to airway complications.

Please do not hesitate to contact us with any concerns or questions related to this issue.

Sincerely,

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