



Is your child Outpatient or Inpatient?

You or your child needs medical care that is best provided in the hospital.

Hospital stays can be billed as “Outpatient” or “Inpatient.”

What does that mean for you and your child?

What Is Outpatient Status?

Many hospital stays, including those that are overnight, are billed as outpatient visits. If you are an outpatient receiving care in a hospital bed, you could be receiving either Observation services or Procedural Short Stay services.

- **Observation Status**

Your child needs a brief stay in the hospital for treatment, testing and/or monitoring. Published guidelines give direction to your doctor about what type of care is considered outpatient care. If your child does not improve or gets worse, then the billing status may change to inpatient.

- **Procedural Short Stay Status**

Your child is being cared for in a hospital bed for normal recovery after an outpatient procedure. If your child does not improve or gets worse, then the billing status may change to inpatient.

What Is Inpatient Status?

Your child’s condition and treatment plan meets the guidelines for an inpatient stay and your doctor “admitted” him or her to the hospital.

What does this mean to you?

Quality of care: At Children’s Hospital of Wisconsin, we work to provide the best and safest care to all patients. All necessary tests, medicines and therapies will be provided in every one of the various types of hospital stays.

Financial impact: Even though your child is in a hospital bed, inpatient insurance benefits do not always apply. Outpatient status, while in a hospital bed, may have different co-pays, co-insurance and deductibles.

If you have any questions about your coverage, please contact your insurance carrier.

You may also contact our financial counselors at (414) 266-5700.



Kids deserve the best.