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Owner: Chase Walters: Director,
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Care of the Pediatric Patient in the Operating Room, 30.25.07

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PURPOSE:

Outline specific actions, considerations, and precautions in the individualized care of the pediatric patient.

GUIDELINES:

Pre-procedure considerations:

- Place pediatric emergency equipment / anesthesia cart close to care in OR suite. This will allow immediate access.
- For IV administration, refer to posted guidelines on Anesthesia cart
- Allow the child to bring a familiar object in the OR.
- Hold/touch the patient gently. Apply protective devices after anesthetized.
- Assess pediatric developmental stage and approach/treat the patient accordingly.

Intraoperative considerations:

- Maintain careful positioning and body alignment. Pad bony prominences.
- Maintain body temperature with the following actions:
 - May use warming device. This may include blankets, Bair Hugger, etc
 - Keep patient as dry as possible to minimize cooling through evaporation.
 - Monitor body temperature throughout case.
 - Increase the room temperature prior to patient arrival to 76- 80 degrees.
 - Transport infants in isolette
 - Consider fluid warmer for fluid administration
 - Use warm irrigation fluid.
 - Cover head with bouffant or protective covering.
- Ensure proper size and location of bovie pad.
- Ensure quiet attitude in room throughout case but particularly during induction and emergence.
- Have appropriately sized instruments, soft good, etc. for patient ready

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