

# Let's Talk About...

## Your Child's ID Band: *It's About Safety*

Your child has been given a patient identification (ID) band. **It's very important that your child keep this ID band on.** Wearing the ID band may feel like an inconvenience, but it's for your child's safety. This fact sheet explains how the ID band is used, why it's important, and how you can help us keep your child safe.

### Why your child needs to wear an ID band

The band protects your child's safety and helps ensure the best possible care. Here's how:

- **The ID band correctly identifies your child.** Healthcare providers will ask your child's name and date of birth. They'll check this against the information on your child's ID band. If they match, providers know they're safely providing the right care to the right patient.
- **The ID band helps make sure your child receives the right medication.** Each ID band has a bar code that must be scanned before medication can be given. This helps prevent medication errors.
- **The ID band helps the lab give your child's doctor the right test results.** Providers use information from the ID band to label your child's specimens, process them, and give accurate results to the doctor.
- **The ID band helps your child get the right blood for a transfusion, if needed.** Information from the ID band was used to label your child's blood samples. One of these samples was tested for compatibility to receive blood or blood products. If your child needs a transfusion, the ID band helps providers match your child to the correct blood or blood products.

**Help us keep your child safe — make sure your child's ID band stays on until providers say it's okay to remove it.**

Providers use ID band information to mark blood samples for testing, give the doctor the right lab results, and check that your child is getting the right treatment.



### How you can help

Parents and other caregivers have an important role to play in keeping children safe during treatment. Here's what you can do:

- 1 **Make sure your child's ID band stays on** until a healthcare provider says you can remove it. In some cases, children will need to wear it at home. For example, patients coming in for a blood draw a day or two before a surgery must have their ID bands on when they come back for the surgery. If they show up for surgery without their ID band on, they'll need another blood draw, and the surgery may be delayed.
- 2 **Give your child's name and birthdate when a healthcare provider asks you.** Asking who your child is — and checking this information against the ID band — is a way to protect your child's safety. Providers will probably need to ask you these questions more than once during the course of treatment. Please be patient and remember that each check is important.
- 3 **Let us know if your child's ID band comes off.**
- 4 **Speak up** if you think a provider has confused your child with someone else, if you don't recognize a medication your child is given, or if anything concerns you. **You are our partner in safety.**