

- Obtain baseline information:
- Take vital signs, including blood pressure; keep blood pressure cuff in place and deflated to lessen disturbance to child.
- Take and record vital signs more frequently if any value fluctuates.
- Inspect operative area.
- Check dressing if present.
- Outline any bleeding area on dressing or cast with pen.
- Reinforce, but do not remove, loose dressing.
- Observe areas below surgical site for blood that may have drained toward bed.
- Assess for bleeding and other symptoms in areas not covered with a dressing, such as throat after tonsillectomy.
- Assess skin color and characteristics.
- Assess level of consciousness and activity.
- Notify physician of any irregularities in child's condition.
- Assess for evidence of pain. (See Pain Assessment, [Chapter 5](#).)
- Review surgeon's orders after completing initial assessment and check that preoperative orders, such as seizure or cardiac medications, have been reordered and can be given by available