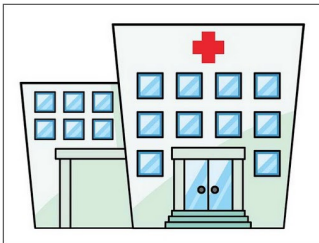


Supporting and talking with children of an adult hospitalized for Covid-19

Why is _____ in the hospital?	When is _____ coming home?	Is _____ going to die?
Patient might be in the hospital for several reasons (discuss symptoms if appropriate). One of the reasons is Covid-19. You might've heard of it from your family, friends, school, or even the news. Covid-19 is a new illness that is spread by germs. It sometimes seems like a cold or the flu, but it is different and we are still learning about it. Most people with Covid-19 get better but some people get very sick and need to visit the hospital.	Patient will come home when they are well enough, but they may still need to be away from other people for awhile. This is to keep from spreading the germs to more people. The current rule is at least two weeks and when symptoms such as a fever or cough are better. 	<i>The children may associate hospitalization with death from previous experiences OR may be hearing about deaths associated with Covid-19 in the media.</i> If the patient is not terminally ill, reassure the children that the hospital staff is helping the patient to feel better. If the patient is potentially terminally ill, prepare the children for this. "We hope not. The nurses and doctors will do everything they can to help patient get better." <i>For more specific support around death and dying— seek grief resources such as What Will I Tell the Children PDF</i>
Will I catch it?	What will they do to _____ in the hospital?	Who will take care of me while they're gone?
We do not know who will get sick and who will stay healthy, but we know a few things that can help. You can help us by washing your hands, covering your nose and mouth when you cough or sneeze, avoiding touching your face, and staying only with family members who are well. To keep everyone as safe as possible, schools and other public places are closed. The hospital workers are also wearing special outfits to protect themselves and others. 	Unfortunately there is not a medicine or cure for Covid-19. Instead, the doctors and nurses will do everything they can to make patient feel better and get well as fast as possible. Some of these things might be other types of medicine for their symptoms, special tests, oxygen, and lots of rest. The patient has a bed and bathroom in their room and gets food delivered to them. <i>Suggest making get well pictures to show on video or having set phone calls if possible.</i>	Since schools are closed and gatherings are not permitted, arrangements may look different than normal. The important thing is to inform the children of who and what to expect and to keep things as normal as possible. Example: "_____ will help you with your schooling during the day and _____ will stay with you over night." <i>By being open and honest with the children, you will help them to talk to other caregivers about it as well as understand the need for added hygiene practices.</i>