

## I'm Having my Appendix Removed!

What is my appendix, and what does it do?

- Your appendix is a small tube that is connected to your large intestine.
- Some animals have an appendix that helps digest food. In humans, the appendix really doesn't do anything.
- So don't worry you don't need your appendix.

Why do I need my appendix taken out?

- Germs have settled in your appendix and cause it to become infected. This infection is called appendicitis.
- When this happens you may have a fever, don't feel like eating, throw up or have pain around your belly button that moves to the right side of your stomach.
- If the doctors don't remove your appendix when it becomes infected, your appendix can rupture or burst., allowing the germs inside to infect other areas in your stomach.
- When you have your appendix removed it is called an appendectomy.

To find out more about pre-operative tours or to schedule a tour

Contact the \* **Child Life** \* Division at

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