**POSTOPERATIVE INSTRUCTION SHEET**

**EAR TUBES**

1. Diet: Advance your child’s diet slowly. Start with liquids and by dinnertime your child should be able to resume a normal diet.
2. Activity: Your child may return to school or day care the day after surgery.
3. Pain: Ear tubes do not result in significant pain. Give Tylenol if any complaints of pain or ear tugging.
4. Medication: Ear drops: 3 drops 3 times per day for 3 days.
5. Ear drainage: Expect discharge from the ear for 3-5 days after surgery. It may be yellow, brown, light red or a mix of all.
6. Fever: Fever > 101.5 after ear tube surgery is uncommon and usually due to a pre-existing viral or bacterial infection. See your pediatrician if a fever >101.5 persists for greater than 2 days. A low grade fever (<101.5) for 1-2 days is common and need not be reported.
7. Travel: Flying in an airplane is fine anytime after surgery.
8. Ear Infection: Fluid or pus after ear tubes means that there is an ear infection. This should be **INITIALLY** treated with **DROPS** and **NOT ORAL ANTIBIOTICS**. Call the clinic if this occurs.
9. Water/Swimming:
   1. Ear plugs are not necessary in chlorinated pools unless your child is spending a significant time swimming under water.
   2. Wear ear plugs when swimming in lakes or oceans
   3. Ear plugs are not necessary during bath/shower time as long as your child’s head is not immersed under the water.
   4. Do NOT use Q-tips for any reason.
10. See Dr Maturo every 6-12 months for a routine check or sooner as needed.

Call the clinic if you have any questions

* 1. For questions about surgery 301 319 8629
  2. For appointment 301 295 4664 (option 0)
  3. After hours: 301-295-4611 and ask them to page the ENT on-call (be sure to leave your full name, social security number, type of surgery, and date of surgery)