



Search #4intersex: How to tell if surgeries are happening at your local hospital

Unnecessary surgeries are still being performed on intersex children across the United States. Many people—including educators, lawmakers, and even doctors outside of specialties like urology and endocrinology—are shocked when they learn that practices like clitoral reductions on babies did not stop years ago. It is important to know how to figure out if hospitals near you might be conducting these surgeries.

Search the Web

Google should be your first stop. Look up hospitals in your state and click around their websites. Find out if they have a pediatric urology program. (You can usually find this under a tab labeled “services,” “departments,” or similar.) You can also search for conditions they treat – look for terms like “disorders of sex development,” “ambiguous genitalia,” or “congenital anomalies,” as well as specific diagnostic labels like “congenital adrenal hyperplasia” or “hypospadias.” Reading what the hospital’s website has to say under any of these headings can be very helpful. For instance, one hospital claims: “It is often technically easier to treat (and therefore raise) the child as female. This is because it is **easier for a surgeon to make female genitalia** than it is to make male genitalia. Therefore, sometimes this is recommended even if the child is genetically male.” This may give you an idea of what is facing the parents of intersex kids.

Reach out

If you find that a hospital in your area is performing surgeries on intersex kids, reach out! We’ve developed a [“What We Wish Our Doctors Knew”](#) brochure. Email them our brochure, and copy us (4intersex@interactadvocates.org) when you send the information. Sending a blurb like the one below is recommended:

“Hello. I’m writing from [your town] and am invested in supporting intersex patients. I notice your website indicates that surgeries on intersex youth are going on at [the name of the hospital]. I would like to share a resource developed by intersex young people for those in the medical field, “What We Wish Our Doctors Knew” (attached). I’d like to learn more about how your facility is ensuring the well-being of the intersex youth, and their families, that may access your services. When is a good time for us to discuss this issue?”

Contact interACT if you get a response so we can collaborate on how to protect as many young people as possible!

FOR MORE INFO VISIT:

[#4INTERSEX.ORG](https://4intersex.org)
interactadvocates.org