

# INFORMATION FOR THE DAY OF SURGERY

## *On the day of Surgery*

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- Unless your surgeon has directed otherwise, have a light breakfast/lunch, and take your routine medications.
- If you take medications, bring a list with you to help in our plan of care.
- Wear comfortable clothing that is easily changed.
- Please leave jewelry and important papers at home.
- We recommend that you be accompanied by an adult who can drive you home after the surgery.

## *Arriving at Lawrence Hospital Center*

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- Plan to arrive at Lawrence Hospital Center 30-45 minutes before the scheduled time of your surgery. Follow the signs to the Patient Registration Area.
- The registrar will ask for your insurance information and obtain your signature. You will be given the Patient Bill of Rights, your registration paper and card to bring with you to Outpatient Surgery.

- Take the elevator to the second floor and relax in the Waiting Room until you are called into the Outpatient Surgery Area.

## *What happens next?*

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- On entering the Operating Room, you will be greeted by a staff member who will take your registration form and card, and direct you to the changing room. Your companion can accompany you. You will be given a “robe” to wear. (For infection control reasons, no street clothing can be worn in the Operating Room.)
- In the changing room, please remove your outer clothing, pantyhose or tights. You may leave your underwear, shoes and socks on. We will provide covers for your shoes, and a hat to cover your hair. A restroom is available for your use.
- A locker will be provided for your belongings; you will hold the key.
- After you have finished changing, the Registered Nurse (RN) will ask you several questions.

The nurse will ask you:

- Have you ever had previous surgery?

- Have you ever received a “local” anesthesia, and did you have any side effects to the local anesthesia?
- Do you have a history of High Blood Pressure, Heart Disease, Diabetes, Seizure, Disorder?
- Are you allergic to any medications?
- What medications are you currently taking?

## *After you discuss your history*

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- After taking this brief history, the RN will ask you to read and sign your Surgical Consent form. The RN will also sign this document as the witness to your signature.
- At this time, if you have any more questions, you may speak with your surgeon.
- You will then be escorted to the Operating Room. Your companion can remain in the Waiting Room just outside the OR until your surgery is completed.

## *The Operating Room (OR)*

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- The OR may seem cold, and the nurse will offer you a warm blanket for your comfort.

## I N F O R M A T I O N   F O R   T H E   D A Y   O F   S U R G E R Y

- You will be helped onto the operating table and you will meet the “scrub person”.
- The RN circulating nurse will be with you throughout the procedure. This nurse will place a probe on your finger to monitor your blood pressure, and a sticky pad on your thigh, which is part of the surgical equipment (a grounding pad). A “seat belt” will be placed across your thighs.
- Everything will be explained to you in advance.
- You will be receiving local anesthesia only. You will be awake and able to speak with your doctor and nurse.
- You can request to wear a headset and listen to a tape during the procedure. A special headset and tapes are available, or you may bring a cassette of your own.
- You will hear conversation and beeping sounds that are all routine during surgery.
- When the surgery is complete, the monitoring devices will be removed. You will be helped to sit up slowly and “dangle” your legs, sitting on the OR bed, until you are feeling well enough to walk back to the changing area.
- While you are changing into your own clothing, the circulating nurse will call for your companion to come from the waiting room, or will make a call for your ride home (or to work).
- You will be asked to sign your instruction sheet after the RN has reviewed it with you.
- If the surgeon is ordering any medication for the “post op” period, you will be given a prescription to take to your pharmacy.
- If you have come to the hospital alone, a volunteer must be called to escort you to the lobby. If you are with someone, and feel fine, you are free to leave at this time.
- Please take all your belongings.
- The nursing staff may follow up with a phone call the day after surgery.

*During the Surgery*

- The operative site will be prepped and draped, and the local anesthesia will be given.
- You should not feel any pain after you receive the anesthesia. You will, however, still perceive pressure and pulling sensations. If you do feel pain, tell the staff, and the surgeon will administer additional medication.
- To maintain a sterile area, you will be separated from the surgical site by the sterile drape. The circulating nurse will position these drapes so that you are comfortable.

*After your Surgery*

- You will be given a sheet of instructions that covers:
  - care of your incision
  - when routine activities can be resumed, including showering
  - when the surgeon would like you to schedule a follow-up appointment

*The Operating Room Nurses  
have prepared this  
information to answer  
questions you may have  
and prepare you for  
your surgical experience.*