

## **COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUR SURGERY STAY**

**Q: Why do I have to arrive so early before my surgery?**

A: There are many things we need to do to prepare you for your surgery – e.g. take your temperature, blood pressure, heart rate, listen to your lungs. We may have to shave and/or wash your surgical area, answer any questions you may have and ensure your safety during your facility visit. Also, your anesthesiologist will visit with you prior to your surgery.

**Q: Will I have my surgery at the time I am scheduled?**

A: Your scheduled surgery time is an estimated time. Cases may take a shorter or longer amount of time. This is why we cannot give an exact time. We will make every effort to meet your expected surgery time and will keep you and your family informed of any delays. Please feel free to ask if you have any concerns.

**Q: Why can't I eat or drink before my surgery?**

A: If your stomach is empty, the risk of vomiting during surgery is greatly reduced. Vomiting during surgery can cause serious complications.

**Q: What should I wear/bring to the hospital?**

A: Wear loose fitting, comfortable clothing (a button front shirt is ideal for upper extremity surgery). Bring reading glasses if needed. All jewelry needs to be removed in case of any swelling. It is best to leave all valuables at home or with your family. Bring any papers that you were given at the doctor's office. Bring crutches, ice devices or support garment you received in the physician office if needed. Bring your insurance card and co-payment.

**Q: Will my family be able to stay with me while I am being prepared for my surgery?**

A: During the initial preparation for surgery, we would prefer that only one friend or family member be with you. Please make arrangements for someone to care for your children the day of the surgery.

**Q: Will I be able to see my family after my surgery?**

A: There is a period of time that you will be in the recovery room. One friend or family member may join you in the post-operative recovery room depending on your nursing needs.

**Q: How will I feel after my procedure?**

A: You may feel cold or have some chills. Warm blankets are available. Noises may seem louder than usual. Your vision may be blurred and you may have a dry mouth. The area of your surgery may hurt – the nurse can give you pain medications that your surgeon has ordered for you.

**Q: When will I be allowed to go home?**

A: Everyone reacts differently to the medications we give them, so recovery time depends upon the individual. When you are awake and doing well, your nurse will go over your post-operative instructions. You need to have someone with you for the first 24 hours in case you have an adverse reaction to the medications you received. Your safety is our concern.

**Q: When can I resume my usual activities? Go back to work? Drive a car?**

A: With regard to driving a car, going back to work or resuming exercises, etc., ask your surgeon, who will explain any limitation(s) you may have. You will need a responsible person to drive you home after the surgery. If you have to stay overnight in the hospital, make sure that your ride is available by early the following morning.

**Q: What danger signs should I watch for when I go home?**

A: Any excessive bleeding, signs of infections (redness, swelling, heat, increased pain, red streaks, drainage from the wound, fever of 100.6 degrees or higher, difficulty breathing, excessive pain, excessive nausea and vomiting, or inability to urinate needs to be reported to your physician immediately.