

The Day of Surgery

Check-In :

You should have been given a time to arrive for your pre-surgical check-in, which is usually a few hours before surgery is scheduled. Once you check into the hospital or surgery center and all paperwork is complete, you will be taken to the pre-operative area of the facility. Once there, you will meet with your pre-operative nurse and he or she will direct you to a pre-operative bed. You will be asked to change into a patient gown. Your nurse will review your medical history with you and take your vital signs. An intravenous (IV) line will be placed by your pre-operative nurse and if any additional pre-operative tests are needed, they will be completed at this time.

Meeting with your Anesthesiologist:

After the check-in process is complete, your Anesthesiologist will meet with you to:

- Review your medical and surgical history
- Discuss any medical conditions needing attention during your surgery
- Explain the plan for your anesthetic as well as alternatives and risks
- Address your questions

Meeting with your operative room nurse:

In the pre-operative area, you will meet your operating room nurse. He or she will provide additional information regarding the process before surgery as well as to confirm your information and the site of your planned surgical procedure.

In the operating room:

Once the pre-operative interview is completed, your Anesthesiologist may administer a sedative to begin the anesthetic process. The Anesthesiologist or the operating room nurse will then transport you to the operating room. Once there, you will be asked to move over onto the surgical table and the monitors used to monitor your vital signs will be placed. These will include electrocardiogram electrodes, a blood pressure cuff, an oxygen level monitor, and any other monitors your anesthesiologist deems to be appropriate. Your Anesthesiologist will then provide you with the anesthetic as discussed in your preoperative interview.

Your Surgery:

After your Anesthesiologist has determined you are ready, your surgery will begin. During your operation, you will be under the constant care of your Anesthesiologist. Your heart rate and rhythm, blood pressure, the amount of oxygen in your blood, and other vital signs will be constantly monitored. Most patients won't even realize their Anesthesiologist is providing these critical functions during surgery. Your Anesthesiologist will be with you providing your anesthetic and making adjustments to your anesthetic according to their best judgment.

In the Recovery Room:

After your surgery is complete, you will be taken to the recovery room. If you received a general anesthetic, you may remember awakening in the recovery room. Careful monitoring of your vital signs, as well as your overall well-being, will continue under the watchful eyes of the recovery room staff. If you are experiencing pain, you will be provided with pain medication. Once you meet the discharge criteria, you will either be transported to your hospital room or in the case of same day surgeries; you will be discharged from the facility.