

## Frequently Asked Questions About Day of Surgery

### 1. Why do I need to arrive hours before my surgery time?

The surgical process can have unexpected and varying time frames. The staff needs enough time to properly prepare you for your procedure. The surgeon may have cancellations or changes in their schedule, and this time allows a buffer to ensure a smooth and safe surgical experience. You will receive a pre-procedure phone call that will provide you with a designated arrival time and it is crucial to adhere to this time.

### 2. Can I make plans before or after my surgery?

Please be prepared to dedicate the entire day to your surgery. It is important not to schedule any commitments before or after the procedure, as the exact schedule may vary. Being able to perform your procedure safely and supporting your recovery are our top priorities.

### 3. What does my driver need to know about surgery day?

Ideally, your driver will accompany you to the waiting area and stay for the duration of your procedure. We understand there are reasons that may prevent this from happening. In this case, we ask that your driver stay within 30 minutes of the facility and be reachable by phone at all times. Unforeseen changes in surgical times are common and we need to be able to contact your driver.

### 4. Why was I told not to bring any valuables?

We strongly advise that you leave your valuables including all jewelry, money, and expensive electronics at home. All jewelry must be removed prior to going to the operating room. Leaving these items at home will help to reduce any unnecessary risks such as skin injury or loss of items. We also ask you to bring a small personal bag for your belongings on the day of your procedure. While we will provide storage options, having your own bag helps with our initiative to reduce waste.

### 5. Why do I need a driver and a responsible adult to accompany me?

You may be given anesthesia or sedation, making it unsafe to drive yourself home. Your surgery will be cancelled if you do not have a driver. The reason for a responsible adult is in the rare event of a medical emergency, having someone with you ensures prompt communication and assistance. Drivers of medical transportation services, taxis, or other ride services are not considered responsible parties; therefore, another person needs to accompany you.

### 6. Why can't I eat or drink prior to my surgery?

You **must** follow the instructions given to you during your pre-procedure phone call to prevent the risk of aspiration (when stomach contents enter the lungs). These guidelines ensure a safe surgical experience and if not followed could result in surgery cancellation.