



INFORMATION FOR FAMILY MEMBERS/CAREGIVERS

Welcome to Minnetonka Ambulatory Surgery Center. Family members/caregivers are critical to the overall surgical experience and recovery of the patient. Because you play a significant role in the recovery of the patient, we are providing you this information sheet to better understand the process and aid in the patient's recovery. Our hope is that you are well-informed throughout the process and have had the opportunity to ask questions and seek clarification for anything you might not understand. Please let a staff member know if you have questions or need help during any part of your visit today.

What You Can Expect:

The patient will be taken to our pre-operative area to prepare for surgery. You will not be taken with him/her immediately. When you see the patient again, he/she will be dressed for surgery and may have an IV. You may have an opportunity to have questions answered from the nurse, physician and anesthesia staff prior to surgery.

Once the patient is taken back to the O.R., you will return to the waiting area. The physician will speak with you when the surgery has been completed. The patient may not see the physician after surgery so we encourage you to have any questions that need answers available to ask at that time. After you have spoken with the surgeon, if the patient has general or spinal anesthesia, it may take an hour or so before you will see the patient. During this time, the patient will be in Phase 1 recovery, waking up from anesthesia and working to control their pain level. For other types of anesthesia, you will be reunited directly in Phase 2 after surgery.

When the patient is awake and reasonably comfortable, he/she will be moved to Phase 2 and a staff member will come to get you. At this time the discharge instructions will be reviewed in more detail and discussion about showers/baths, dressing changes, weight bearing status and any devices the patient may have will occur at this time.

Once you are united with the patient in Phase 2, if you leave the patient's room to return to the lobby, or leave the Phase 2 area, please let a nurse know prior to departure.

If you are in the lobby and wish to speak to a nurse after 4:30 p.m., please use the phone located in the waiting area and dial extension 18958. If you are calling outside of the lobby area, please call: 763-581-8950.

We are happy to fax or call in patient's prescription, if allowed, to their pharmacy of choice.

Once the patient has stable vital signs, pain level that is reasonably controlled and you are comfortable with the discharge instructions, the patient will be discharged to the comfort of their home.

A Few Things To Remember:

- Someone needs to remain with the patient for the first 24 hours.
- The patient needs to take it easy today. He/she may be tired or light headed.
- No driving today and while taking narcotics.
- No alcohol consumption for the next 24 hours and while he/she is on pain medicine.
- No important decisions today.
- The patient needs to drink lots of fluids and eat light.

Please write down any questions you may have or the patient has expressed to you. Bring this sheet with you anytime you visit with one of our medical staff members.
