

Prior to the Surgery

You will have a **Pre-Admission Unit** appointment. This will take place on the telephone or in-person. It is meant to prepare you for the logistics of your surgery day and admission to hospital, if applicable.

- Patients having elective surgery may be required to have a COVID-19 test the day before their procedure. You will be told where to go to get this test completed.
- Stop eating and drinking when you are instructed to do so. If you need to take medication, this can usually be done with a small sip of water.
- Remove all extraneous items such as contact lenses, jewellery/piercings, and watches. Try not to bring any valuables to your surgery. Personal belongings can usually be locked away for you.

Time of Surgery

You will typically meet the surgical, nursing, and anesthesia teams in the **Preoperative Area of the Surgical Department**. You will have the opportunity to ask any final questions before your surgery. The Preoperative Area may also be the place where an intravenous line (IV) is started. This IV is used to give you medications and hydration throughout your surgery.

- Once in the **Operating Room**, the surgical team will confirm your identity, the surgery that is being performed, and any allergies or concerns that may be present. This is called the **Surgical Briefing**. If your IV line was not started in the Preoperative Area, it will be placed at this time.
- The anesthesia team will keep you comfortable and asleep during your surgery. As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and the need to implement safety measures, the surgical team may leave the Operating Room as your anesthesia is being administered.
- Some surgeries are shorter or longer than anticipated by your doctor. Your surgeon will take the amount of time required to complete your procedure safely.

After the Surgery

You will wake up in the Operating Room and be moved to the **Recovery Room** on a stretcher or hospital bed. The Operating Room nurses and members of the surgical team will accompany you as you are transferred. The Recovery Room team will ensure you remain comfortable and stable after your procedure.

- If you are going home on the day of your surgery, the Recovery Room team will help you to transfer to a chair when you are ready. They will also encourage you to have sips of fluid and small bites of food. Finally, they will help you to ambulate to the bathroom and ensure you are able to void before leaving the hospital. Your personal belongings will be given to you when you are alert and ready for them.
- If you are staying in the hospital to recover, after a period of observation in the Recovery Room, you will be transferred to the **Postoperative Ward**. Your personal belongings will be transferred with you to the Postoperative Ward.

