



Ambulatory Surgery: Preparation Tips and Frequently Asked Questions

Weiss Memorial Hospital
4646 N. Marine Drive
Chicago, IL 60640
(773) 878-8700

Ambulatory Surgery Unit
(773) 564-5850

Main Operating Room
(773) 564-5933

Surgical Verification
(773) 564-7576

If you have any questions, contact your physician directly or call the Ambulatory Surgery Department at (773) 564-5850.

You will be contacted by the Ambulatory Surgery Department 24 to 48 hours in advance of your surgical procedure and given an arrival time to report to the Ambulatory Surgery Department. Please note that these times may change depending on the surgery/surgeon schedule. **On the day of surgery**, please stop in Admitting on the 1st floor if you have not been pre-registered or have not met your financial obligations and they will direct you to the 2nd floor Ambulatory Surgery Department by taking the A Elevators.

If you are having **eye surgery**, you will be directed to the 4th floor eye center by taking the B elevators (rear exit off the elevator).

For your comfort and safety, please observe the following instructions unless otherwise indicated by your physician:

Parking: For your convenience, valet parking is available at the main entrance of the hospital on Marine Drive between Wilson and Leland for a \$6 fee. The valet fee is waived for those patients that have a handicap placard. There also is a parking facility behind the hospital on Clarendon, which is charged on an hourly rate basis. If you choose to use the parking facility, stop at the front desk for a validation that allows for a \$2 discount.

Surgery Pre-Registration: Telephone pre-registration helps ease check-in the day of surgery. Please call (773) 564-7576 or (773) 564-7552 and have the following information when you call: your contact information (name, address, telephone), social security number, and health insurance information. Please register **at least 2 business days** prior to your surgery/procedure. The physician's office will pre-certify your procedure and verify your benefits. It is recommended that you contact your insurance company and understand your benefits and precertification requirements. You will be expected to meet your financial obligations prior to surgery (co-pay, co-insurance, deductible). If you need additional assistance, please contact the surgical verification department at (773) 564-7576 or (773) 564-7552.

Pre-Admission Testing: Please arrange to have your pre-operative testing done by your primary care physician. If you do not have a primary care physician, your surgeon can refer you to a Weiss medical internist on staff. Your surgeon will provide you a prescription for the diagnostic tests required for your procedure.

Day before Your Surgery: Eat a light or bland meal for dinner the night before your surgery (unless instructed otherwise by your physician). Shower and wash your hair the night before your surgery. Ensure that you have arranged to have an adult escort you home after surgery.

Transportation: Any procedure that requires anesthesia requires you to have a responsible adult drive you home after your procedure. Please make these arrangements



in advance. **A responsible adult is required to escort you after any procedure requiring anesthetic medication. DO NOT EAT or DRINK after midnight the evening before your procedure, this includes gum, candy, mints.** It is recommended that you refrain from alcohol. You may brush your teeth and rinse your mouth the morning of surgery as long as you do not swallow. If you eat/drink anything after midnight, your surgery may be delayed, postponed or cancelled.

DO NOT SMOKE after midnight before your surgery.

Medications: Please bring a current list/your medication bottles with you to Ambulatory Surgery so the nurse can ensure that an accurate list of your medications is available in your medical record. It is important that you **DISCONTINUE** any aspirin products, non-steroidal anti-inflammatory medication (i.e. Ibuprofen, Advil®, Motrin®, Aleve®), Vitamin E supplements, and herbal/natural supplements (i.e. ginkgo, ginseng) 7 days prior to your surgery as this could cause increased bleeding at the time of surgery. You may take acetaminophen (Tylenol®) as needed for pain relief. If you are on any blood thinners such as Coumadin, Lovenox, Heparin, or Plavix your physician will notify you as to the safe discontinuation of these medications.

DO NOT take your insulin or oral medication for diabetes the morning of surgery unless otherwise advised by your physician. If you are taking Glucophage (Metformin ®) for diabetes, this must be stopped a full 24 hours and as long as 48 hours before your surgery as advised by your physician.

DO TAKE your blood pressure medication and if you are on a beta blocker the morning of surgery with one sip of water, just enough to swallow the pill(s) as advised by your physician.

NOTIFY YOUR SURGEON and the ambulatory surgery nurse if you develop a sore throat, cold, fever, infection of any type or a blister, abrasion, pimple, or lesion of any type to the area that the surgeon will be operating on.

Valuables: Please leave valuables such as jewelry and personal items at home. This includes body-piercing jewelry and tongue studs. You may not wear any jewelry during surgery.

What to Wear: It is recommended that you wear loose, comfortable clothing that is easy to take on and off and put on. If you are having shoulder surgery, wear an oversize button down shirt. For knee surgery wear loose fitting pants or shorts. Do not wear eye makeup, nail polish or any other cosmetics. Do not apply skin lotions to the skin in the area of the procedure.

If you wear dentures, a partial plate, eyeglasses, contact lenses, a hearing aid or any other prosthesis, you will be asked to remove them prior to surgery. Please bring the containers for contact lenses, glasses, or dentures. These items will be returned to you after your procedure.

If you are having surgery that will require crutches, a cane, walker or other assistive device, please bring it along the day of surgery. If your physician has ordered a brace that will be required after surgery (knee, hip, back, neck, etc.), please be sure that you have been fitted prior to surgery and you bring this with you to the hospital.

If you are scheduled for an outpatient procedure, occasionally circumstances may necessitate admitting you to the hospital overnight. Please be prepared to remain in the hospital if your physician/anesthesiologist feels this is necessary for your comfort and safety.

What to Bring for Your Hospital Stay: Please bring a photo ID, insurance card, list of allergies and current medications, recent test or physical exam reports, X-rays and MRI films if they are in your possession, copies of Advanced Directive, Living Will or Power of Attorney and your co-payment assigned to your insurance plan.

For safety and privacy reasons, children under the age of 16 may not visit in the surgical patient care areas. Visitors under age 16 should not be left alone in the waiting room and must be supervised by a responsible adult.