



**BEFORE YOUR SURGERY** Your physician will discuss your surgery with you and order any necessary tests before your surgery. These tests will depend on your age and medical history and could include laboratory studies, x-rays or an EKG. To help prevent delays or cancellations, **you should have all testing done 7 days prior to surgery at Southwest Regional Medical Center.** Your tests can be completed at Southwest Regional between the hours of 7:00 am-6:00 pm Monday through Friday, and between the hours of 7:00 am-noon on Saturday. **To have your testing done, report with your doctor's pre-admission testing form (included in the folder given to you by your doctor's office) to the registration desk located on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor and sign in. Your testing cannot be completed without this form.**

**THE DAY BEFORE YOUR SURGERY** A member of the surgery staff will contact you by phone the day before your surgery. If you will not be available or if we do not reach you by 8:00 pm, please call us at 724-627-3101. We are not permitted to leave messages on answering machines unless you specifically instruct us to do so. If you do not hear from the hospital, please call into the hospital and give the operator your name and tell them that you are scheduled for surgery the following day. The operator will let you speak with a patient care manager who will give you instructions and tell you what time to arrive at the hospital prior to your surgery. They can also answer any questions you may have. Contact your doctor if there is any change in your health status, such as a cold, infection, flu or fever. **If for some reason you must cancel your procedure, please call your doctor's office first.** If you are unable to reach the office due to the time, please call the hospital and speak with the patient care manager or someone in the operating room. Eat a light supper unless otherwise instructed. Do not eat or drink anything after midnight the night before your surgery, unless otherwise instructed.

**THE DAY OF YOUR SURGERY** When you arrive at the hospital you should check in at the registration desk on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor. The registration clerk will then verify your registration information and direct you to the 5<sup>th</sup> floor Short Term Procedure Same Day Surgery Unit. You will be assigned a bed and cared for by our nursing staff. You will also be asked to dress in a hospital gown. If your physician has ordered you intravenous fluids or medication, it will be given to you. Occasionally the area to be operated on will be shaved before surgery. **You are encouraged to leave jewelry and other valuables at home. Do not wear contact lenses, false eyelashes, or nail polish. Facial makeup must be removed before surgery.** One family member or friend may stay with you until you are taken to the Operating Room. Both parents may stay with children under 18 years of age until taken to the Operating Room. Please empty bladder prior to going to surgery. Family members may stay in the waiting area on the 5<sup>th</sup> floor until your surgery is finished. Family members of joint replacement patients will be able to stay in the patient's room. **If your surgery requires anesthesia, you will NOT be permitted to drive home.** Therefore, a relative or friend who can drive must be available to drive you home. Shortly before your surgery, you will be taken to the Operating Room in your bed/wheelchair by our staff. We will keep your family/friends informed of your progress while they wait for you.

**AFTER YOUR SURGERY** If your surgery requires anesthesia, you may be taken from the Operating Room to the Recovery Room. Most patients are taken directly back to the Same Day Surgery Unit depending on the procedure and amount of anesthetic that was given. Your blood pressure, pulse and general condition will be monitored closely. If you do require placement in a recovery room, you will stay there until you are able to return to the Same Day Surgery Unit, where you will continue to receive nursing care. Occasionally, your physician may feel that your medical condition requires additional monitoring and may admit you to the hospital for a short stay. At that time, arrangements will be made for your admission.

Your physician will leave written instructions for you to follow. These will be reviewed and explained by one of our nurses and a copy given to you upon discharge. Please follow these instructions carefully. If you have any questions please ask your physician or a hospital staff member before you leave the hospital. If you had anesthesia during your surgery, at discharge, nursing personnel or escort services will escort you to the 1<sup>st</sup> floor exit via wheelchair. For your comfort, safety and protection, you **MUST** have a family member or friend drive you home. If any problems or questions arise, please refer to your written discharge instructions given to you upon discharge or call your physician.

Remember, we are here to help you get well!