

Patient Info Sheet

You are scheduled to have an operation done by one of the surgeons in the group of Surgical Specialists of Spokane, P. S. The doctors and staff of this group will work hard to help you through the pre-op phase of the surgery, the procedure, and the postoperative care. This information sheet has been developed to give general instructions and answer frequently asked questions.

Office Hours

The office is open from 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM during the week (except holidays). Please try to conduct business and make routine inquiries during those hours. If you have questions or problems you will more likely be able to talk with your surgeon if you call early in the day.

After Hours Emergencies

Two doctors are always available for urgent or emergent problems. The doctors in the group rotate the night and weekend call therefore you may not get to speak to the doctor that did your surgery. If you need to contact the doctor on call after hours, call the office number and you will be forwarded to his cell phone or to the answering service. Your call will be routed depending on which Hospital you are associated with. A doctor covers Sacred Heart and Valley; the other doctor covers Deaconess and Holy Family. If you get his voice mail, leave your number and he will call back as soon as possible. If your surgeon is not available please be prepared to explain to the surgeon on call:

- Who your surgeon is
- What operation you had
- The date of the operation
- In which facility the operation was done

During the early postoperative period we suggest you:

- Contact the doctor on call for the group with issues pertaining to your operation rather than contacting your primary care physician.
- Do not go to the Emergency Room without contacting the doctor on call. He can facilitate the visit to the ER and hopefully help avoid long delays. After talking with the doctor on call you may decide the trip to the ER is unnecessary.

Preoperative Instructions

Fasting: It is important to follow your instructions about fasting before your surgery. Ask the doctor which of your routine medications you should take that day in spite of not eating.

Pre-op Shower: The night before and the morning of your surgery, take a thorough shower (preferably with antibacterial soap such as Dial or Hibiclens but any good soap will do) with emphasis to the area of the planned incision. Do not shave the area. If any shaving is necessary it will be done in the operating room.

Postoperative Appointments

Please call the day after your surgery to set the postoperative appointment.

Prescriptions

Please try to get prescriptions filled during office hours. Call early in the day when needing prescription refills as your doctor may be in surgery or unavailable to give authorization until the following day. It is particularly important that narcotic prescriptions are filled while the office is open. The doctors have a legal responsibility to ensure patients are not receiving these drugs inappropriately. The group's policy is to only give narcotic prescriptions and refills during office hours. In some circumstances narcotic refills will be allowed at night or during the weekends if the pharmacist calls the doctor. New narcotic prescriptions will not be written during these times.