

Waiting at Home for Emergency Surgery

You need surgery but your surgeon has said you can safely wait at home.

How do I know when I am having surgery?

You do not have a scheduled time yet but it will be done within the next few days. We will call you tomorrow (the day after you leave) by 4 PM. We will tell you what day and time to come to the hospital. Please write that information in the box below.

**** Do not call the hospital **, we will call you.**

Arrival day & time: _____

At Richmond Hospital, go to:

Surgical Day Care Admitting, Red Zone -> Enter through the South Entrance.

Walk through the 2nd set of glass doors, turn left and walk down hallway. Walk past the door and turn left. The entrance is immediately to your right.

Emergency Admitting, Red Zone -> Enter through Emergency.

If your condition gets worse before your surgery, go to the hospital emergency department.

If your surgery is postponed, you will return home and can eat normally on that day. Follow the instructions from step 1 of this document. We will call you by 4 PM the following day with further instructions.

STEPS TO PREPARE FOR SURGERY Check off each item once it is done.

1. Starting right NOW

Your surgery could be cancelled if you do not follow these instructions.

- Stop smoking, drinking alcohol, and using any recreational drugs.
- If you are taking any medications and your surgeon has not told you whether to continue or stop, please call your surgeon, Dr. _____ at _____
- If you do not speak English well enough to understand medical terms, bring someone with you who can speak both English and your language to interpret. This person needs to stay with you until you go in for surgery, and be available right after surgery.
- Arrange for someone to look after you for 24 hours, and for someone to give you a ride home 1 to 4 hours after your surgery (this could be as late as 11 PM). If staying overnight, you will normally be discharged around 9 AM. This person needs to be available to come when we call. You can take a taxi home but only if you have an adult with you (in addition to the taxi driver). You will not be allowed to walk home from the hospital.

2. The EVENING before your surgery

- Take a bath or shower. Wash your hair.
- Remove all nail polish from your fingers and toes. You can leave false fingernails on but it has to be clear polish only. We need to see your fingernails or toenails to check your circulation during surgery.

3. Starting at MIDNIGHT

- DO NOT EAT OR DRINK ANYTHING AFTER MIDNIGHT. This includes:
 - X No water, gum, candy or chewing tobacco
 - X Do not swallow any water or liquids when you brush your teeth

4. The MORNING of surgery

- If your surgeon has told you to take your medication on the morning of your surgery, take the medication with a very small sip of water.
- Keep your phone close by in case we need to contact you.
- Take another bath or shower.
- No skin lotions, hair gels, or perfumes.
- Dentures OK but no adhesive.
- Tie back long hair. Do not use bobby pins or elastics with metal.
- Remove ALL jewelry, including face, ear, tongue, and other body piercings.
 - If we need to use cautery equipment during your surgery, your skin may be burned if you are wearing metal jewelry or accessories.

5. What to BRING TO THE HOSPITAL

- Personal health card and photo identification.
- All prescription medications in their original containers.
- Eye glasses, contact lenses and/or dentures and their cases.
- This document, with the items you have completed checked off
- Book to read while waiting.
- A small amount of money if you want (but no more than \$10).
- Cell phone OK but leave all other valuables at home, eg wallet, other electronic devices

If you are staying overnight:

- Also bring toiletries, such as toothbrush, toothpaste, dental floss, hair comb.
- Arrange to have your family or friend bring in any other personal items once you are admitted to a bed.

Richmond Hospital Ground Floor Map

