

# Day Surgery

## Frequently Asked Questions



### **1. Where do I go when I get to the hospital the day of my surgery?**

Day Surgery is located on the first floor of the Outpatient Plaza. Look for the large, lighted “Day Surgery” sign. For your convenience, FREE valet services are available at the Day Surgery entrance from 5 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Please check in with our Admissions clerk at the Day Surgery window.

**If you are having surgery at Rapides Women’s and Children’s Hospital**, please check in at the Admitting Office in the Rapides Women’s and Children’s Hospital Lobby. The Scott Street entrance will be open for your convenience with FREE valet services available from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

### **2. Why do I need pre-admission testing?**

Pre-admission testing allows us to review your health history – including allergies to medication, food or latex. It also gives you the opportunity to ask a nurse any questions you may have. You will leave with verbal and written instructions regarding your surgery.

### **3. What kind of tests will I have during pre-admission testing?**

The tests (blood work, X-ray, EKG) are based on your health history, the type of surgery you are having and as requested by your physician. Some patients require no diagnostic tests.

### **4. What do I need to bring with me for pre-admission testing?**

Please bring any paperwork the physician has asked you to bring, insurance information and reading glasses. It is most important that you bring a list of medications you are taking (prescription and over-the-counter). If you do not have a list, bring the actual medications with you. If you have questions, write them down and bring them, too.

### **5. What do I need to bring with me the day of surgery?**

- Names of medications or bottles of medications (if you did not bring them to pre-admission testing)
- Reading glasses
- Reading material and/or audio devices
- Crutches, if required after surgery

### **6. Why do I have to remove jewelry (even my wedding ring) for surgery?**

Jewelry is a safety issue in the operating room. Leaving jewelry on poses a risk of burns from electrocautery, injury from swelling or pressure and infection. We also ask that you remove all body piercings.

### **7. Why can’t I eat anything the day of surgery?**

This restriction is important for your safety when you undergo anesthesia. If you do not follow this restriction, your surgery could be cancelled. After midnight the night before surgery, do not consume:

- Food of any type, including hard candy, cough drops, mints
- Beverages, including water, coffee and soda
- Gum

**8. What medications may I take the morning of surgery?**

Certain medications are permitted the morning of surgery. They are to be consumed with as little water as possible. The medications that are permitted include:

- Heart medication
- Blood pressure medication
- Seizure medication
- Other medications as instructed by your surgeon.

**9. Why can't I take my insulin or diabetic medicines the morning of surgery?**

Having low blood sugar when you undergo surgery can pose a problem for you. The Day Surgery staff will check your blood sugar the morning of your procedure.

**10. Why do I have to wait until the day before my surgery to learn the time of my surgery?**

The surgery schedule is finalized the morning before to insure the most accurate schedule for our patients. Calling after 9 a.m. the morning before surgery provides you with the most accurate information and the least chance of disrupting your arrangements for arrival.

**11. Why do I have to arrive at the hospital two hours before surgery?**

Those two hours allows for adequate preparation before surgery and for flexibility in case another patient has cancelled. There may be delays in the surgery schedule due to other unplanned circumstances. We encourage you to bring reading material and audio devices to help you relax before surgery.

**12. I have sleep apnea. Will that be a problem?**

If successfully treated, sleep apnea is usually not a problem. The anesthesia department might need to place a special breathing tube due to your sleep apnea. Depending on the severity of the sleep apnea and the type of surgery, some patients will need to be observed in the hospital overnight.

**13. How do I know the surgeon will operate on the correct site?**

Rapides Regional Medical Center has a policy in place to minimize the risk of operating on the wrong site. Throughout your pre-operative preparation, you will be asked many times to identify the correct operative site. Your surgeon will verify the correct site and write "yes" on the site prior to your procedure.

**14. What if I have a pacemaker or internal defibrillator?**

Your cardiologist needs to check your pacemaker before surgery to make sure it is functioning properly. If you have an internal defibrillator, you need to see your cardiologist before surgery. If you have an identification card for your pacemaker and/or internal defibrillator, please bring it with you and give it to the nurse.