Day of Surgery

Please arrive at the time indicated by your physician. This is usually about two hours before surgery.

Go directly to the reception desk in the Surgery Waiting Room on the 4th floor of the OrthoSports Center.

If testing (lab work or EKG) has been performed at your physician's office, please ask the doctor to fax the results directly to Pre-Admission Testing at 205-212-6595. These results should include your date of surgery.

After Surgery

Following surgery, you may spend some time in the Post-Anesthesia Care Unit (PACU). After you have sufficiently recovered, you will be transported to your hospital room or returned to Ambulatory Surgery for discharge. You will remain in Ambulatory Surgery for at least one hour, during which time you will receive post-operative instructions.

If you are discharged the day of surgery, you MUST arrange for someone to drive you home. The anesthetics and medications you receive may cause drowsiness for up to 24 hours.
Pre-Admission Testing

Please call the Pre-Admission Testing (PAT) Department at 205-212-6608 as soon as your surgery is scheduled. Your pre-testing can be performed up to 14 days before your surgery. Calling right away will help ensure your selection of a convenient date and time.

Hours (will vary with the holidays):
Monday through Friday, 7:00 a.m.-5:30 p.m.
We are located on the 4th floor of the OrthoSports Center.

Please allow 1 to 3 hours for testing. Your testing will involve an extensive health history. We also may draw lab work and perform an EKG.

If you are having a total joint replacement, you also need to attend joint class. These classes are offered Wednesday mornings, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 noon, on the 4th floor of the OrthoSports Center.

Please bring the following information with you to your pre-testing appointment:
- Insurance identification or certified insurance forms
- Social Security number
- Date of birth
- Address
- List of medications, with dosages (include any over-the-counter meds and herbs)
- Known allergies to medicines or latex
- Any forms given to you by your physician

If you have had an EKG in the past year, please fax it to 205-212-6595. If you have not had one in the past year, please wear a button-up shirt. No lotions, creams, or body oils, please.

If you have a notable heart history (including stents, heart attack, chest pain, or other heart diseases) and have had a stress test, echo, or heart catheterization in the last two to three years, please call the doctor who ordered the test. Have the reports faxed to Pre-Admission Testing at 205-212-6595. These reports must be accompanied by your name, date of birth, and date of surgery.

If you are currently taking any diet medications or vitamins containing weight-loss herbs, please notify your doctor. This may affect the date of your surgery.

If you have a pacemaker or defibrillator, please notify your surgeon and your Pre-Admission Testing nurse.

If you do not have insurance, please contact the Business Office prior to admission at 205-930-2470 (8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.) and ask for a financial counselor.

Based on your insurance coverage, you will be asked to pay your deductible or co-pay at the time of registration. Payment can be made using cash, check, or credit card.

Before Surgery

Please take prescription drugs as scheduled the day before your surgery. Follow your physician's instructions if you are on heart, blood pressure, diabetic, seizure, or blood-thinning medication.

If you are unsure about any aspect of your care, please call the pre-admission nurse at 205-212-6608 for clarification. If your call is transferred to voicemail during normal business hours, please leave your name and phone number and we will return your call as soon as possible.

If you have concerns or questions on weekends or after hours, please contact your physician. Messages left on voicemail may not be retrieved in time to appropriately respond to your question or need.

Do not eat or drink anything—including water—after midnight prior to surgery, unless otherwise instructed by your physician or pre-admission nurse. You may brush your teeth.

Please notify your physician if you become ill with a fever, cold, sore throat, vomiting, diarrhea, or other illness.

Patient Parking for Pre-Admission Testing and Day of Surgery

Building 3 has the most convenient parking deck. Please see the map for directions and information.

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