

WHAT TO EXPECT ON THE DAY OF YOUR SURGERY

Meet Your Team

- **Reception desk:**

Upon arrival, please check in at the reception desk in the main lobby of the Bridwell Tower and present your Express Patient Card. After checking in, you will go the third floor where staff will greet you and begin preparations for your procedure.

- **Pre-Op nurse:**

Will escort you to your room (with one family member), do an assessment, answer questions, start IV with lab work, if needed, initiate medications, and get blood glucose if diabetic.

- **Anesthesiologist**

- **Nurse Anesthetist**

- **Surgeon:**

Will answer questions, explains medications used to put you to sleep. *If you have had nausea or a reaction to anesthesia in the past, please tell your anesthesia provider.*

- **OR nurse:**

Asks your family member to return to the guest seating area, answers questions, and takes you to the operating room. After surgery, you will be taken to the Post- Anesthesia Care Unit (PACU) or directly to the Intensive Care Unit.

- **PACU nurse:**

Will watch you carefully, check your vital signs often, look at your dressings (bandages), regulate your intravenous fluids, and give you pain medicine, as needed. Will also update your family members in the guest seating area.

- If you are having pain, tell your nurse using the 0-10 pain scale, with 0 meaning no pain and 10, representing the worst pain.
- If you experience any nausea, tell your nurse so you can be treated with medication. Once you are as comfortable as possible, you will be moved to a room within the hospital (*if inpatient*) or to a discharge room (*if outpatient*).

- **Post-Op nurse:**

Will bring two family members into the room to be with you. Frequently checks vital signs; monitors your ability to drink fluids; answers questions; gives discharge instructions for your care at home such as diet, pain medication, follow-up appointment with your surgeon, and if needed, activity restrictions; removes your IV; and takes you in a wheelchair to your vehicle. *You must have a family member or friend drive you home.*