

Be Involved in Your Care

Your Safety is #1

You need to work with your doctors and nurses to make your operation a success! Be informed, involved, and an active member of your surgical team, will help increase the safety of your surgery or procedure.

The Ohio Patient Safety Institute (OPSI) urges patients to become involved in their care.

This brochure will help you know how to be part of your care during your surgery or procedure.



The Ohio Statewide Protocol for Correct Site Surgery is endorsed by:

- Ohio Patient Safety Institute (OPSI)
- Ohio Hospital Association
- Ohio State Medical Association
- Ohio Osteopathic Association
- Ohio Chapter American College of Surgeons
- Ohio Association of Ambulatory Surgery Centers
- Ohio Organization for Nursing Leadership
- Ohio Society of Anesthesiologists
- Ohio Board of Nursing



www.ohiohospitals.org/opsi

Tips Before Surgery

Be Involved in
Your Procedure



Before Your Surgery

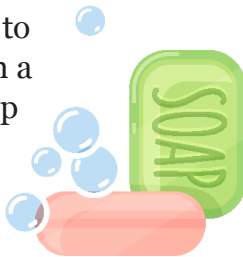


- Ask if you should take or stop any medications before the surgery
- Ask if you should take your vitamins, herbals, and over-the-counter medications

- Bring a list of all medications you are taking at home
- Ask if there is any special test that you need before surgery
- Ask if you can eat or drink before your procedure
- Bring a list of any questions you may have to ask your doctor
- Prepare your home for your return from hospital
- Arrange for a family or friend to help you at home



- You may be asked to take a shower with a special soap to help reduce germs on skin before going into surgery



The Day of Surgery

- Bring someone with you to the hospital
- Do not wear make-up before surgery
- Leave valuables and jewelry at home
- Bring your insurance cards
- Wear loose fitting clothes
- Make sure your hospital wristband has your correct name and birth date on it
- Healthcare team members will check your hospital wristband



- Make sure the healthcare team discusses your surgery with you
- The doctor may mark the site for surgery
- Once in a while, patients may remember events during surgery. If this happens, tell your doctor.

After Surgery

- Ask for a written list of what medications you are to take at home
- Ask if you will need any medical devices like crutches, walker, or wheelchair
- Ask what diet and activity you can do at home
- Make sure you have someone who can help you at home or talk to a social worker to get help
- Ask the staff to show you and your caregiver any tasks that require special skills (like changing a bandage or giving a shot). Then show them that you can do these tasks.
- Before you go home, make sure you have an appointment to see your doctor
- Ask about problems to watch for and what to do about them
- Write down a name and phone number of a person to call if you have problems

