



Surgical Services

The Orthopaedic Hospital of Wisconsin specializes in the care of people with orthopaedic related conditions and injuries. Our doctors and clinical support staff possess the expertise and caring attitude required to provide the personal, high quality care that you deserve.

The following information describes what you can expect both before and after surgery. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact your physician's office or the Orthopaedic Hospital at **961-6707**. We want your visit with us to be as comfortable and efficient as possible.

Before Arrival

One to two weeks prior to your surgery, a registered nurse will telephone you to review your medical history and discuss any special needs that you may have. You may be required to undergo pre admission testing such as a laboratory test or an EKG before the day of surgery. The nurse will explain what you may expect during surgery and will answer any questions you may have. If you have not spoken with a nurse from the Orthopaedic Hospital at least four days prior to surgery, please call the Surgical Services Department at **(414) 961-6767**, Monday through Friday between 8:00 AM and 4:00 PM.

Pre admission Checklist

In addition to the Fasting Requirements, please follow these instructions before your surgery.

- Do not smoke for 48 hours before surgery.
- Wear casual, loose fitting clothing.
- Remove all makeup.
- Leave jewelry, money, and other valuables at home
- Notify your doctor if you experience any cold symptoms, fever, or other illnesses.
- Arrange for someone to drive you to and from the Hospital on the day of surgery.
- Arrange support (family or friends) at your home after you are discharged.
- If you are told that you may be remaining in the Hospital overnight, please bring clothing, personal items, and all prescription medications (in original containers).

On Your Surgical Day

On the day of your surgery, come directly to the Surgical Services Department located on the second floor of the Hospital. Please bring any papers and x-rays given to you by your doctor, your insurance card, and photo ID.

You will be asked to arrive 1½ to 2 hours before your surgery to provide time to review with you your records and procedure and answer any questions that you may have.

Surgeries preceding your procedure may take longer or shorter than expected and thus, your surgery "start" time may vary from the scheduled time. If this occurs, we will keep you informed.

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On Your Surgical Day (continued)

Family and friends may wait in our reception area and can be with you before surgery in your pre-operative room and following surgery in Stage II Recovery or your inpatient room if you are staying overnight.

After Surgery

There may be one or two stages of recovery, depending upon your anesthesia.

Most patients feel ready to go home after an hour in Stage II Recovery. You will receive specific instructions for your care at home. If you are staying overnight, or for an extended recovery period, family and friends may join you when you are settled in your room.

It is important that you arrange for someone to provide your transportation and assist with your care at home when you leave the Hospital. As a patient, you are not allowed to drive yourself home. You may be given medications during and/or after your surgery that may impair your judgment for some time.

Get plenty of rest after surgery. If you receive general anesthesia, you may feel drowsy and weak. Follow your doctor's instructions carefully and if any problems arise call immediately.

A member of the Hospital's nursing staff will phone you at home on the business day after surgery or discharge to check on your progress. The nurse will be glad to answer any questions you may have. (If you prefer that a call not be made or that a message not be left on an answering machine, please tell your nurse when he/she discusses this with you.)

Eating and Drinking Before Surgery

Our goal is to provide every patient with a comfortable experience throughout the surgical procedure and recovery. Your safety is our utmost concern. While we understand that it can be difficult to fast prior to surgery, it is very important for your safety that you have an empty stomach during your anesthetic. For this reason, we have certain requirements for fasting before surgery that must be followed. **Please follow these instructions carefully so that your procedure is not cancelled or delayed.**

FOOD: Do not eat anything after midnight (no food, candy or gum)

DRINKS: Clear liquids are allowed until **3 hours before** your **arrival time** for surgery (unless an anesthesiologist or surgeon instructed you otherwise)

Clear liquids include:

- Water
- Black coffee (do not add milk products or nondairy creamers)
- Tea (no additives)
- Apple or cranberry drink

Do not drink alcohol the day of your surgery.

DO NOT DRINK ANY LIQUIDS WITHIN 3 HOURS OF SURGERY ARRIVAL TIME.

Medications as directed by the Pre-Admission Nurse or your Doctor may be taken with a **SIP of WATER ONLY** on the day of surgery.