

# FAQs About Surgery



GLACIAL RIDGE  
HEALTH SYSTEM  
*heartfelt care®*

It is natural to have questions about surgery, and we want you to be as informed and comfortable as possible throughout your surgical experience at Glacial Ridge Health System.

The following are answers to some of the most frequently asked questions regarding surgery. Remember that your surgeon is best able to answer more specific questions and can provide more thorough explanations based on his or her evaluation of your needs.

## **“When can I be discharged after my outpatient or same day surgery?”**

We want to assure you that after your surgery you will be successful at home, but your blood pressure, pulse and oxygen levels need to be stable before you are discharged. The three other criteria we want to be met are: your pain is well-controlled, you are able to walk around without difficulty, and food or fluids are tolerated without nausea. Certain physicians require you to be able to urinate after surgery as another criterion that needs to be met. After receiving permission to discharge you, we need to get your instructions and prescriptions ready. This may take an hour to prepare and teach instructions to you and family to ensure the best care possible at home.

## **“Will I need a driver to bring me home?”**

Yes, you will need to have a responsible adult drive you home and for your safety, stay with you for approximately 24 hours after surgery. Rainbow Rider may be used if you have a responsible adult to ride with you on the bus.

## **“When will I get results of my tests?”**

You should typically receive your test results within two weeks. We will always contact you by letter or phone with results. If you have not heard from us about your test results, please call your surgeon/nurse team.

## **“What time should I arrive?”**

A nurse should call you within the week prior to your surgery to discuss questions you may have with instructions for surgery and a time for surgery. You may also call 320.634.4521 between 7:00a and 3:00p and ask

for the Surgical Department. If no one answers, please leave a message and during business hours, we will contact you before the end of the day. If your questions need to be answered right away, please call 320.634.4521 and ask for a hospital nurse.

## **“Should I take my regular medications?”**

We ask you not to take non-prescription medications the day of surgery. A nurse will call you to discuss your medications. Your referring physician and surgeon may also discuss this with you. If you have any questions please call 320.634.4521 and ask for the Surgery Department, or call your physician or surgeon’s office.

## **“When should I take prescribed medications?”**

Upon discharge, a nurse will discuss your medications with you and when you should be taking your regularly prescribed medication. If you are going home with new prescriptions, the nurse will also discuss what medications you were given during recovery and when you can start taking medications. Most medications except blood thinners or antiplatelet medications can be started when you get home.

## **“Who should I call if I have questions?”**

If you have questions after going home, please call 320.634.2214; the hospital surgery department, or your surgeon’s office. If it is urgent, call 320.634.4521 and ask for a hospital nurse that can help you contact your surgeon. If it is an emergency, call 911 and go to the nearest emergency room.

## **“When do staples or stitches come out?”**

Typically staples or stitches are removed in the clinic around 7-10 days after surgery.