



# HOWARD COUNTY GENERAL HOSPITAL

JOHNS HOPKINS MEDICINE

## **Ambulatory Care Center/The Center for Ambulatory Surgery (Outpatient Surgery)**

The Ambulatory Care Center, located adjacent to the hospital, is home to The Center for Ambulatory Surgery (TCAS). This is the primary location for outpatient procedures and additional outpatient services, including Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI).

TCAS occupies the entire lower level of the building and consists of six operating rooms, one minor procedure room, a urology suite, and a post-anesthesia care unit. Space and programs have also been designed to meet the needs of pediatric surgery patients and their families.

For more information, please call 410-884-4500.

## **Out Patient Pre-Surgery Instructions**

Your surgery is important, and the best way for you to prepare is to take care of yourself, eat well and get plenty of rest.

Below, are a few key instructions and helpful hints that will help you prepare for your visit.

### **In Advance of Surgery**

Arrange for someone to drive you home following your surgery. Make sure that a responsible adult stays with you for the rest of the day and through the night following your surgery.

If you have small children, please make child-care arrangements so that you can rest when you get home.

### **The Night before Surgery**

After midnight, do not eat any solid food or drink any liquids. This includes water and chewing gum. When you brush your teeth, rinse your mouth without swallowing any liquid.

### **The Morning of Surgery**

Unless otherwise instructed by your physician, you may take your normal medications, such as heart and diabetes medications, with a small sip of water the morning of surgery. Some medications, such as blood thinners, may be discontinued prior to surgery. Your physician will instruct you on these. You should call your physician if you have any questions.

Shower or bathe to minimize the chance of infection. Wear loose, comfortable clothing.

Leave jewelry and other valuables at home.

If you wear contact lenses, you will be asked to remove them before surgery. Wear your glasses to the hospital or bring your contact lens holder, your glasses and glass case with you.

If a young child will be undergoing surgery, please bring a comforting toy or blanket.

Bring your completed insurance card/forms or Medicare card to the Admitting Office.

### **When to Arrive**

Please check in at the reception desk in the main lobby of the Ambulatory Care Center one hour before your surgery is scheduled.

### **Special Precautions**

Contact your surgeon or The Surgery Center immediately if you experience any change in your health before surgery. Even minor elevations in body temperature, a cold or cough need to be reported.

If you suspect you may be pregnant, please notify your surgeon. This information will help us provide the best level of safety for you and your developing child.

### **Insurance and Billing**

A business representative from The Surgery Center will contact you before surgery to obtain financial information and answer your questions. If you have not been contacted three days before your surgery, please call 410-884-4500.

Uninsured and/or cash patients will be asked to pay on or before the admission date unless other arrangements are made.

Patients with verified insurance will be asked to pay their portion only on or before the day of surgery. MasterCard and Visa accepted.

The Center will bill your insurance as a courtesy. However, the balance due is the patient's responsibility. Payments will be requested from you unless your insurance company pays within 60 days.

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