



**May 29, 2020**

## **Patient Information:**

### **Rescheduling of Outpatient Ambulatory Surgeries at Westchester Medical Center**

Outpatient ambulatory surgical services are those for which a patient enters and leaves a surgical facility on the same day, without an overnight stay. Westchester Medical Center is now resuming these procedures -- based on the status of coronavirus impact in specific counties, including a drop in COVID-19 cases, as approved by New York State.

Patients who were able to defer an elective outpatient procedure or test during the early phase of the pandemic will be contacted to reschedule pre-procedure testing as well as their surgery. We have taken extraordinary measures to protect our workforce, and to ensure that all our care environments are safe for our patients.

Please Note: Emergency and urgent surgeries have continued throughout the pandemic, regardless of a patient's infection status.

**Patients should review all pre-operative directions with their surgeon when planning for their surgery. This general information is not intended to replace that clinical direction.**

#### **What to Expect: Preparing for Surgery**

- Patients will be called to schedule a pre-surgical testing visit, which will take place in a safe environment
- As a mandatory safety protocol, the pre-surgical testing visit will include a COVID-19 test up to three (3) days prior to the procedure.
- Each patient must follow stringent safety precautions to avoid possible infection before the procedure date itself. For **at least 14 days** prior to a surgical procedure these safety precautions include, but are not limited to, the following:
  - Maintain social distancing.

- Follow all preventative measures from the CDC and New York State, which include wearing a cloth face covering in public when social distancing might not be possible.
  - Minimize trips away from home.
  - Inform the healthcare provider performing the surgery or procedure if there has been any contact with a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19 or a person with symptoms consistent with COVID-19.
  - Inform the healthcare provider of any symptoms consistent with COVID-19 or a positive test result for COVID-19.
- Any patient who tests positive for a COVID infection will be re-tested before elective surgery can be rescheduled.

### **What to Expect: Surgery Day -- Arriving at the Hospital – and Going Home After Surgery**

- Visitation restriction remains in place. One adult family member will be allowed to be present with the patient during initial intake. The family member is then asked to please exit the facility during the procedure and will be notified by staff to return and be present during the discharge process.
- Hospital staff will direct patients from the main entrance to the ambulatory procedure area.
- Covid-19 symptoms will be re-assessed, and the patient will be prepared for procedure in a safe, protected environment.
- When a patient is cleared for discharge after the procedure, his or her ride will be called, and the patient will be escorted to Main Entrance for pick up.

### **Do Not Wait for Care**

Any individual with new or concerning symptoms or a change in health status should not wait for care and should call their primary physician's office or come to an emergency room. **If you need a primary care physician or access to specialized services, please call us at 1-833-329-0095.** The health and well-being of our community, our patients and our workforce is our number one priority. We have taken extraordinary measures to protect our workforce, and to ensure that all our care environments are safe for our patients.