



Rescheduling of Outpatient Ambulatory Surgeries at Good Samaritan Hospital

Suffern, N.Y. (May 21, 2020) – Outpatient ambulatory surgical services are those for which a patient enters and leaves a surgical facility on the same day, without an overnight stay. Good Samaritan Hospital 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.
- If you had antibody (serologic) testing which was positive for antibodies, you are still required to have the COVID-19 swab for detection of SARS-CoV RNA.

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

- Visitation restrictions remain in place, so patients need to arrange to be dropped off at the main entrance to Good Samaritan Hospital.
 - With your permission, your loved one, or driver will be enrolled to receive status updates to their mobile device regarding your condition with the Familyfirst Messenger application (iOS or Android).
 - Hospital staff will call you 1-2 days prior to surgery to obtain the contact information of your driver. The enrollment process takes less than five minutes, and will be performed over the telephone, prior to the surgery date.
 - When it is time for you to be discharged, a message will be sent to notify them with a time to be picked up at the hospital entrance. Hospital personnel will escort you for a safe discharge.
- You will be met at the entrance by hospital personnel who will screen you with a non-touch thermometer, and ask you questions concerning potential COVID-19 symptoms and exposure.
- Hospital staff will escort 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.
- We may not look the same since everyone will be wearing a face mask to protect you, and ourselves. But all of your healthcare providers and personnel in the hospital continue to have your best interest as a priority. All patients are required to wear a face covering upon arrival to the hospital entrance. We will provide a mask for you.
- 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 visit**

<https://www.bonsecoursmq.com/>. 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.