

Anesthesia for Ambulatory Surgery



How will I meet my anesthesiologist?

Your anesthesiologist or Day Surgery Nurse will interview you before your anesthesia to gather the information needed to evaluate your general health. This interview may be a telephone call, or a visit to the surgery center. Laboratory tests may be ordered, and other medical, surgical and anesthetic records will be reviewed. You will be asked to answer a questionnaire about your previous anesthetic experiences and medical conditions, allergies, medications or herbal products. If you have particular concerns, you should discuss them with the anesthesiologist.

What types of anesthesia are available?

There are several types of anesthetic techniques available for your surgery ranging from local anesthesia to general anesthesia. The anesthetic technique recommended will depend on several factors. In some cases, the surgical procedure will dictate what kind of anesthesia will be needed. Based on your medical history, a type of anesthetic may have an additional margin of safety. As an outpatient, some techniques may allow you to recover more quickly with fewer side effects. Your preferences also will be incorporated in the selection of the best anesthetic plan for your procedure.

THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW BEFORE YOU HAVE SURGERY

What about eating or drinking before my anesthesia?

As a general rule, you should not eat or drink anything after midnight before your surgery. Under some circumstances, you may be given permission by your anesthesiologist to drink clear liquids up to four hours before your scheduled arrival. If you smoke, please refrain.

Will I need someone to take me home?

Yes, you must make arrangements for a responsible adult to take you home after your anesthetic or sedation. You will not be allowed to leave alone or drive yourself home. It is strongly suggested that you have someone stay with you during the first 24 hours.

DAY OF SURGERY

What happens before my surgery?

Most commonly, you will meet the anesthesiologist who will care for you on the day of your surgery before you go into the operating room. Your anesthesiologist will call the night before to review your medical and anesthesia history and the results of any laboratory tests and will answer any further questions you may have. Your anesthesiologist will discuss the risks and benefits associated with the different anesthetic options. Occasionally it is not possible to keep you comfortable with Regional, Monitored or Local anesthesia, and General anesthesia may be needed. Although uncommon, complications or side effects can occur with each anesthetic option even though you are monitored carefully and your anesthesiologist takes special precautions to avoid them. With this information, you will together determine the type of anesthesia best suited for you.

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Should I take my usual medicines?

Some medications should be taken and others should not. It is important to discuss this with your anesthesiologist. Do not interrupt medications unless your anesthesiologist or surgeon recommends it.

YOUR RIGHTS AS A PATIENT

You should be given an opportunity to speak to those involved in your anesthesia care. All questions involving how the anesthesia will be administered and the training and qualifications of those providing your anesthesia should be answered fully. Any concerns you have about the facility, billing, pain management and safety equipment should be addressed to your satisfaction before undergoing anesthesia. The professionals caring for you should treat you ethically and respect your privacy and dignity. If you feel uncomfortable about any aspect of your care, you have the right to refuse the planned treatment.

Will I receive a separate bill from the Anesthesiologist?

Yes you will receive a separate bill for your anesthesiologist's professional services. If you have any financial concerns, please talk with your anesthesiologist account manager.

[Patients can call our customer service at 1-800-275-2152](#)

[Contracted insurance](#)

BCBS of MT Traditional, Blue Chip, Blue Care, Caring Program for Children, FEP, Medicare Advantage. Health Info Net. Community Health Network
Interwest Health PPO, Interwest Health Traditional. Medicaid, Medicare. Montana State Fund. New West Health Connection, New West Health Medicare Advantage, New West Health Professional Service.