Frequently Asked Questions About Pre-Surgical Screening

Q. What is Pre-Surgical Screening?
A. It is a process to make sure that you are properly informed and fully prepared for your surgery.

Q. How does it work?
A. It will start with you filling out a questionnaire in the Surgeon’s Office, which will be sent into the hospital with the booking information. Then, nearer the date of your surgery, you will be telephoned by a nurse from the Pre-Surgical Screening (PSS) Clinic at the Hospital where you are going to have the surgery. He or she will ask you a series of questions about your health and your social environment.

Q. What happens next?
A. You may be given routine instructions over the phone or you may be asked to come into the Pre-Surgical Screening Clinic to be interviewed and assessed further by the nurse, and/or the anesthesiologist, and/or another medical professional as needed.

Q. When do I find out the date of my surgery?
A. This will depend on where you are having your surgery. You may be notified either by your surgeon’s office or the booking office at the hospital.

Q. Do I need any lab tests?
A. The clinic nurse will make that decision and make any necessary arrangements.

Q. Where will the lab tests be done?
A. If you are not coming in to the Pre-Surgical Screening clinic, the nurse will make arrangements for you to have them done three to five business days before your surgery at your local hospital lab. If you are coming in to the PSS Clinic, the lab tests will be done at the time of your visit.

Q. How long will the PSS Clinic visit take?
A. Every effort will be made to be efficient on the day of your visit, but it will still likely take two or three hours.

Q. Whom will I be seeing?
A. Initially, the Clinic nurses will complete their assessment and give you information and instructions concerning your procedure. You may also be assessed by an anesthesiologist who will discuss with you plans for anesthesia and postoperative pain control. It is also possible that you may visit with another health care professional such as a pharmacist or physiotherapist, depending on circumstances.

Q. Should I eat and take my medication on the day I come to the PSS Clinic?
A. Yes – please do.
Q. Do I need to bring a family member or support person to the Clinic?
A. If you have any concerns, you should bring someone, especially if you have any difficulty with walking, hearing or understanding.

Q. What do I do if I am sick on the day I am supposed to visit the Clinic?
A. Please call as soon as possible so that we can reschedule the appointment.

Q. Will all the necessary preparation be completed after the clinic visit?
A. Most of the time, yes. But sometimes, the anesthesiologist may determine that you need further tests or that you need to be seen by another specialist. The Clinic Staff will make any arrangements.

Q. Will this delay my surgery?
A. Possibly, if there is not enough time before your surgery to complete the necessary tests or consultations. Your surgery would then be rescheduled as soon as possible.

Q. Will my clinic visit be a separate date from my surgery?
A. Yes. Every effort will be made to limit the amount of traveling that you do but it is very important that you are properly prepared for surgery.

Q. When will I be given instructions for the day of surgery?
A. Depending on where you are having your surgery and what you are having done, instructions may come from either your doctor’s office or the Pre-Surgical Screening Clinic. You may also receive a phone call a day or two before your surgery reminding you of the important instructions, what medication you should take beforehand, when you should stop eating and drinking and when you should come into the hospital. At some sites, you may have to phone to find out what time to come in.

Q. Where can I get more information?
A. From your surgeon’s office or from the PreSurgical Screening Clinic at your local hospital.