



Penn State Health Lancaster Medical Center
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What to Expect:
**Outpatient
Surgery**



Welcome

When you accompany a family member or friend for outpatient surgery, we want to ensure everyone has a safe and positive experience. This brochure answers some commonly asked questions to help you know what to expect while you're here.

Arriving at the hospital

When you arrive, our registration staff will collect any necessary information and place an identification band on the patient's wrist. Our staff will check this band throughout their stay. Next, you'll move to the preoperative (pre-op) area. One to two family members or friends – support people – can go with the patient.

The average length of stay for a surgical procedure is four hours or longer, depending on the type of surgery.



The preoperative area

You'll be able to stay with the patient in this area, although staff may ask you to remain in the waiting room during certain pre-op procedures.

- The patient will change into a hospital gown.
- A nurse will take their vital signs and place an intravenous (IV) line for fluids, medication, etc.
- We will complete any lab work and give any pre-op medications ordered by their provider.
- You will meet several people during this time, including the anesthesia provider, the surgeon and the pre-op and operating room nurses.

The operating room

You will be in the waiting room while your family member or friend is in surgery. You'll be able to watch a tracking board that shows where the patient is at each stage of surgery and recovery.

Our waiting room has restrooms, complimentary tea and coffee, TV and charging stations. For snacks and other food, the cafeteria is located on the first floor, to the left of the main lobby. **You must let the Surgical Services desk staff know if you leave the waiting area.**

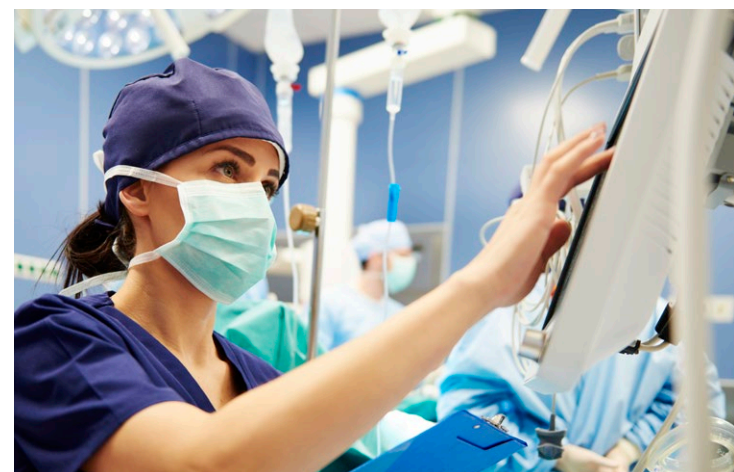
After surgery is complete

The surgeon will talk to you while the patient is waking up from anesthesia in the Post-Anesthesia Care Unit (PACU). These are some important things to know:

- You may join the patient in the PACU after about 30 minutes to an hour. Ask the Surgical Services desk staff to call for an update at any time if you are concerned.
- After hours when the desk is not staffed, we will post a contact phone number that you can call for updates.
- We'll provide discharge instructions before the patient can go home. It's important for anyone who will help care for the patient at home to be present for these instructions, so they also understand them.

If there are prescriptions to fill before you leave, Lancaster Medical Center offers an outpatient pharmacy conveniently located on the first floor, just off the lobby.

- Open 8:30 a.m.–5 p.m. Closed weekends and holidays.
- Medications are often a lower cost than at retail pharmacies.
- Most insurances are accepted.
- One less stop on your way home.



Important notes about recovery

- A support person must stay with the patient for the first 24 hours after surgery to ensure their safety.
- The patient may not drive for the first 24 hours.

If your family member or friend must be admitted to the hospital:

- They will have a short stay in the PACU before being transferred to an inpatient room.
- We will share their room number with you as soon as possible.
- Visiting hours vary by floor.

Thank you for choosing Penn State Health Lancaster Medical Center.