

Your Surgery Guide

To Our Patients and Their Families:

The Surgical Services Department would like to personally thank you for choosing United Hospital Center for your health care needs. It is our pleasure to welcome you.

We are committed to excellence and to provide you with outstanding care during your time with us. Enclosed you will find information provided by your physician about your surgery. This information will allow us to begin preparing for you and your procedure.

Thank you for choosing UHC and please accept our best wishes for your good health.



About Our Facility

We are a smoke free campus

We invite you to enjoy our beautiful facility as you visit your loved one. We understand visitors play an important role in helping patients feel better and get well. At United Hospital Center we know this can also be a very stressful time for families. We welcome you to visit our peaceful healing garden to rest, relax, and reflect. **At UHC our general visiting hours are 9am to 9pm.** However, special visiting policies and limited visiting hours exist for our Critical Care Unit and Obstetrics due to the nature of the patient's medical condition.

**Before Visiting we ask that all visitors be free from illness such as colds/flu to help us in protecting our patients.*

Coffee Shop

The Coffee Shop is located off the main lobby. It is open 6:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, and is closed on holidays. The menu includes Starbucks, cappuccino, espresso, milkshakes and a variety of pastries.

Restaurant

The Garden View Cafe is located on the garden level. It is open seven days a week, 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. and 1 a.m. to 4 a.m., and offers a varied menu.

UHC Gift Shop

The Auxillary to United Hospital Center operates our gift shop located on the first floor. The Gift Shop is open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday-Friday. Proceeds contribute to funding for UHC Services. Phone number is 681-342-1633.

Public Telephones

A pay telephone is located on the first floor by the information desk. *Please observe UHC's Cell Phone Policy on page 10.

Vending/Banking Machines

Snack, soda and ATM machines are located on the first floor in the vending/ATM area. This area is open 24 hours a day.

Overnight Visitors/ Courtesy Rooms

Overnight arrangements may be made for the immediate family of critically ill patients and for out-of-town patients. (i.e. radiation oncology) whose treatment program requires that they be in Bridgeport overnight. For information, contact a nurse on your unit.

Parking

1. Patient/Visitor Parking Lot - located directly in front of the hospital.
2. Cancer Center Lot - located at the south end of the hospital. This lot is designated strictly for Cancer Center patients and families.
3. Emergency Center Lot - located at the north end of the hospital.

Rest Rooms

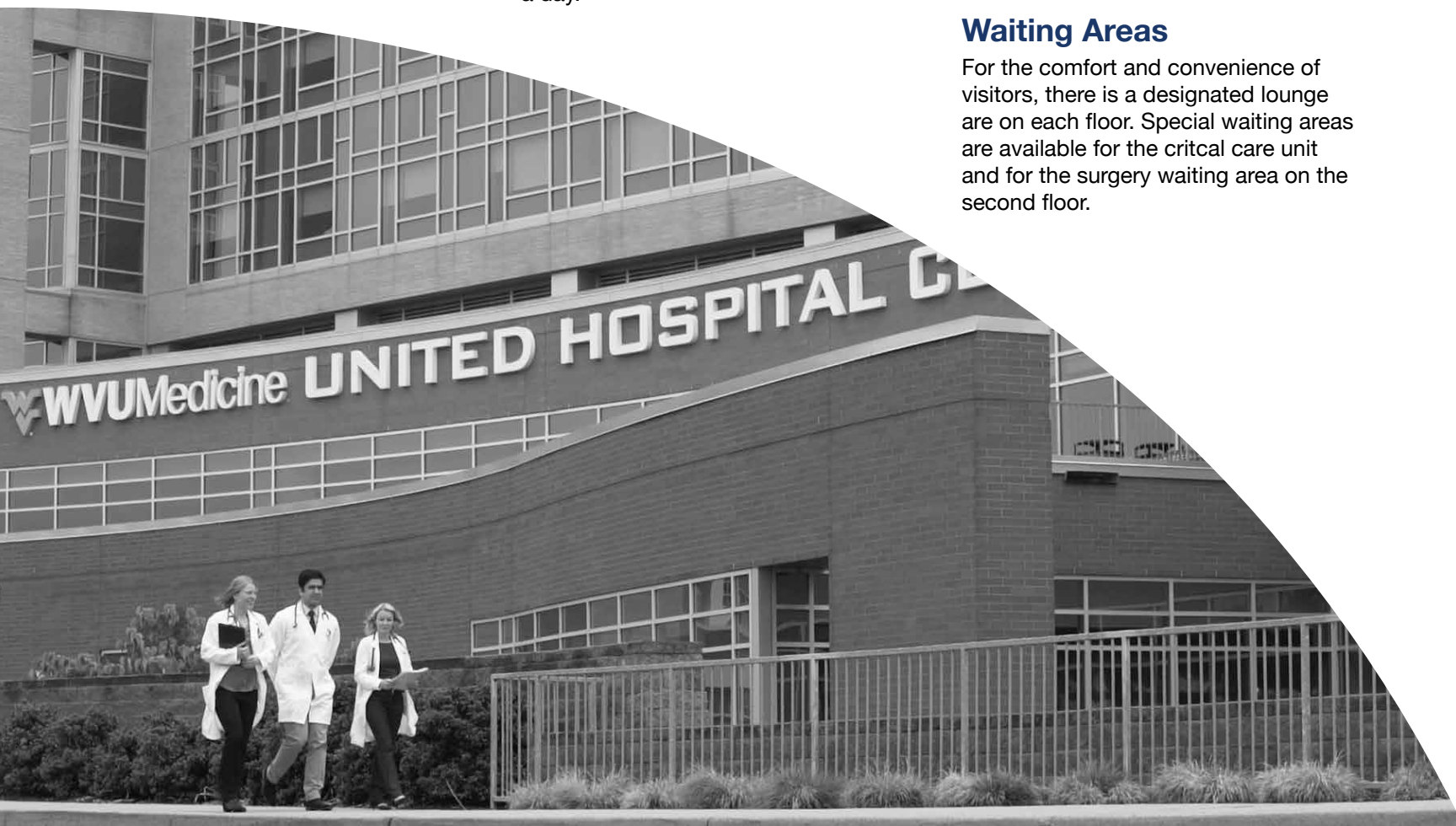
Rest rooms for visitors are located on each floor. Visitors should not use inpatient rest rooms.

Pharmacy

UHC provides an outpatient pharmacy for prescription drugs and other items for your health care needs. The pharmacy is located on the first floor and operates Monday - Friday 7a.m. to 7 p.m. and Saturday 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Waiting Areas

For the comfort and convenience of visitors, there is a designated lounge area on each floor. Special waiting areas are available for the critical care unit and for the surgery waiting area on the second floor.





Before Surgery

Patient Instruction

You are scheduled for surgery on _____ at _____ am / pm. Please arrive at the hospital on your surgery day at _____ am /pm.

Pre-Admission Testing

- Pre-Admission Testing is a two-part process intended to make the day of your procedure go smoothly.
- If your surgeon determined you need pre-op testing, which involves:
 - Blood work, Electrocardiograms (ECG), simple diagnostic tests like Chest X-Rays and ultrasounds.
- You may have your pre-op testing done through our Express Test department, located on the first floor, of the hospital. You will check in with greeter dressed in blue shirt and black pants and they will direct you where you need to be.
- Express Test hours of operation are as such:
 - Monday - Friday – 6:30 am to 6:30 pm
 - Saturday – 6:30 am to 5:30 pm
 - Sunday – 7:00 am to 3:00 pm
 - Contact 681-342-1420, if further questions.

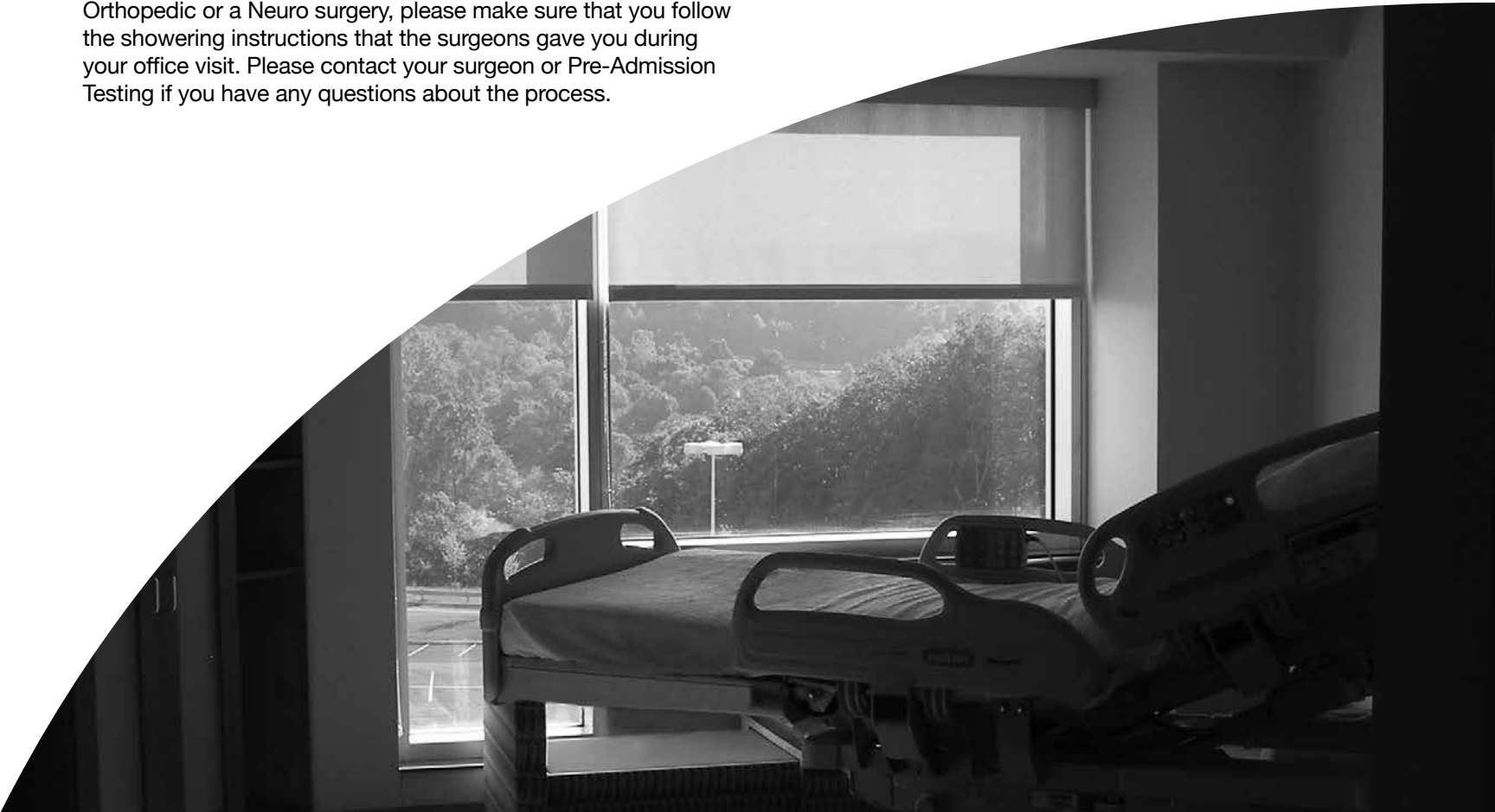
A registered nurse from the Pre-Admission Testing department will call you to complete the pre-admission assessment prior to your surgery date.

If you have not received a call from Pre-Admission Testing department about your health history, please call them at 681-342-1424, before your surgery.

If you are having an **OPEN** abdomen (belly) surgery, an Orthopedic or a Neuro surgery, please make sure that you follow the showering instructions that the surgeons gave you during your office visit. Please contact your surgeon or Pre-Admission Testing if you have any questions about the process.

Preparing for Your Surgery

- **STOP SMOKING OR USING TOBACCO PRODUCTS** (including smokeless tobacco and vaping) as soon as you know you are having surgery. This will improve your healing after surgery. Quitting tobacco is one of the most important things you can do for your health. Call these free resources for help: 800-QUIT-NOW (800-784-8669) or 866-QUIT-YES (866-784-8937).
- **NO ALCOHOL** (liquor, beer and/or wine) at least two days before surgery.
- **ASK YOUR DOCTOR** about taking medications before surgery, certain blood pressure medicines need to be taken or stopped the day of your surgery. Please also check with your surgeon regarding medications including aspirin, ibuprofen (such as Motrin or Advil), blood thinning medicines, fish oil, ginkgo biloba, and vitamins.
- **DO NOT EAT OR DRINK ANYTHING AFTER MIDNIGHT** the night before your surgery. This includes water, gum, or hard candy. Eating or drinking increases the risk of severe, life-threatening complications. You may have to re-schedule your surgery, if you eat or drink anything (8) eight hours prior to surgery, unless instructed by surgeon.
- If your surgeon has instructed you to take any medicine before your surgery, please do so with only a sip of water.
- Call your surgeon if you develop a fever, cold, skin rash, or infection prior to your scheduled surgery. If you are unable to reach your surgeon, please contact the UHC Surgery Department at 681-342-2370 or 681-342-2320 and leave a message.
- Ask your surgeon about any special instructions for your surgery.
- If you have had a blood band placed on your arm for your procedure, please keep dry and do not remove.



Day of Surgery

Before You Leave Home

- Bathe or shower on the day of your surgery. You may be given special instructions (regarding your bath or shower) at your pre-op visit.
- Do not wear make-up.
- Do not shave near your surgical site. Shaving can irritate the skin and could lead to infection.
- Wear loose fitting clothes and comfortable shoes.
- Remove all jewelry, metal and body piercings, to prevent injury to you.
- Brush your teeth, but do not swallow any water or mouthwash.
- **Do not eat or drink anything, including gum and hard candy.**
- **Do not smoke, chew or rub tobacco.**
- **Leave all valuables at home. This includes jewelry, cash, credit cards, cell phones and computers. UHC is not responsible for lost valuables.**
- **Leave personal medicines at home unless told otherwise.**

What to Bring

- If you are prescribed oxygen and have a portable tank, please bring it with you the day of surgery in the event that you will need it.
- If you wear BiPAP or CPAP, bring your machine. It may be needed for your care after surgery.
- Photo ID
- Insurance card(s)
- Medicaid/Medicare card(s)
- Copy of Living Will or Healthcare Power of Attorney*
(We can provide information on both at your request.)
- Any forms your surgeon may have given you about your post-operative care.
- If you are instructed to bring medicine with you, please be sure the medication is in its original container and provide these to the pre-operative nurse. Your medicine will be returned to you or a family member.
- If you will be staying overnight, please bring a robe and slippers. You will want to leave your overnight bag in your vehicle. A friend or family member can bring it to you once you are in your room.

Arrival at the Hospital

- Arriving on time is very important. Please allow enough time for heavy traffic and parking. You will want to arrive two hours prior to your surgery time, or instructed by your surgeon.
- If any further testing has been ordered, you will be directed to registration or you will be directed to the Outpatient Surgery Department on the second floor.



Outpatient Surgery

Important Points to Remember

- Report any change in your condition to your doctor, such as a cold, bronchitis, flu, injuries, or drug reactions which might result in a delay of your surgery.
- Have lab work, x-rays, and EKG done as requested by your doctor.
- Take a bath or shower the night before or morning of your surgery.
- You may brush your teeth, but do not swallow any water the morning of your surgery.
- Do not eat, drink, smoke or chew gum after midnight the day of your surgery.
- Do not wear make-up or jewelry. Leave all valuables at home. Wear comfortable, loose fitting clothing.
- Bring an eyeglass case with you for your eyeglasses. If you must wear contacts lenses, bring your storage case for them.
- Children may bring a special toy, or favorite blankets with them for surgery. Two adults are necessary for a child's care when traveling home.
- You **must** have a responsible adult available to drive you home after surgery. If you receive any type of IV sedation or anesthesia, you will not be permitted to drive for 24 hours. You will not be released to ride home in a cab or on the bus unless you have a responsible adult (other than the bus or cab driver) to escort you home.

It is our goal at United Hospital Center to provide excellent care for our patients and their families. If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact someone at one of the numbers listed below, Monday thru Friday 7:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. If your call is not answered, please leave a detailed message including your name, phone number and reason for calling. Your call is important to us and it will be returned promptly.

Surgical Services: (681) 342-2216

Outpatient Surgery Nurse Manager: (681) 342-2320

Pre-Admission Testing Manager: (681) 342-1407

- If any complications or problems occur during surgery, it may be necessary to admit you to the hospital overnight.
- For patient staying overnight and/or for the convenience of your family, you may want to leave your luggage in the car until you arrive in your room after surgery.
- It is very important that you follow these instructions and arrive on time to avoid delays and possible cancellation of your procedure.



- At Outpatient Surgery, the registration clerk will review your information; please have the following:
 - Photo ID
 - Insurance cards
 - Medicaid/Medicare card(s)
 - Copy of Living Will or Healthcare Power of Attorney (We can provide information on both at your request).
- The OPS nurse will bring you to one of our rooms to check:
 - Heart rate
 - Blood pressure
 - Temperature
 - Oxygen level
 - Health history review
 - Current weight
 - IV fluid and Start an IV
- If you were unavailable to speak with the pre-admission nurse, please bring your medication(s) with you in the labeled prescription bottles.
- If your doctor has requested an anesthesiologist to be part of your care, they will visit you in your room at this time. The anesthesiologist will review your health history and answer any questions you may have.
- Anesthesia is a complex combination of medications used to prevent pain, awareness and movement during surgery. The anesthesia care team for the operating room includes an anesthesiologist (a physician), nurse anesthetist (CRNA) and a registered nurse. The team will provide your anesthesia as well as your complete medical management prior to surgery, during surgery and immediately following your surgery.
- Before surgery, the physician and CRNA will talk with you about what type of anesthesia will be best for you. Types of anesthesia include:
 - General - You are asleep during surgery.
 - Regional - A nerve block numbs only the body part where surgery is being performed. You may receive additional medications to help you relax.
 - Local anesthesia with sedation - Anesthetic is injected into the area of your body where surgery will be performed. You may stay awake or be in a light sleep.
- The surgical team is led by your surgeon. Other team members include registered nurses and a surgical technician. They provide a safe setting for your surgery.
- Please ask a surgical team member for a blanket if you feel cold.
- A blood pressure cuff will be placed on your arm to monitor your blood pressure.
- Small round pads will be placed on your chest to monitor your heart function.
- A clip will be placed on your finger to measure the oxygen level in your blood while you are in surgery.
- You will be asked to remove all clothing articles, including undergarments and a hospital gown will be provided.
- You may have an IV line placed for giving fluids and needed medications.
- If your surgery is specific to one side (right or left) your doctor will also see you in your room and mark the correct site.
- When the surgery staff is ready for you, the nurse anesthetist and the nurse working with your doctor will come to your room and take you to surgery.
- While we strive to start every surgery on-time, please be aware that your surgery time may fluctuate due to length of time needed for previous surgeries or unexpected emergencies. Our staff will make every effort to keep you up to date with an expected start time.
- Your family and friends will be able to stay with you until you are taken to the operating room for your surgery.

Patient Safety

- For your safety, you are required to remove glasses, contact lenses, hearing aids, dentures, wigs and hairpieces. You will be given a bag for your personal items, please provide this to your family/friends to keep for you. If you are alone, we will keep your belongings safe and return these items to you after surgery.
- To ensure your safety, you and your surgeon will talk about your surgery and surgical consent. You will be told about the risks and benefits of surgery. You and your surgeon will agree to the advised plan of care. The surgical consent is a legal document that you sign. It states that you understand the surgery, risks, benefits and care. If you should have any questions please contact your surgeon.
- You and your physician may determine that you will require surgery or a procedure that requires a pre-surgical antiseptic shower. You will be given a scrub that contains chlorhexidine gluconate, an antimicrobial soap. Chlorhexidine destroys bacteria, which will help prevent infections during and after surgery.
- Do not shave near your surgical site. Shaving can irritate the skin and could lead to infection. It may be necessary for the surgical staff to remove hair from the area of your body where the surgery will be performed. Hair will be removed with surgical clippers for your safety.
- Staff and volunteers are required to wear a photo identification badge at all times. Please feel free to ask for identification if someone without a badge enters your room.
- Hand washing is one of the best ways to prevent the spread of infection and is an important part of your care. Employees wash their hands and use foam soap in between patients. Staff also use protective equipment such as gloves for everyone's safety. Remember, as the patient, it is important that you wash your hands as well. Your family and friends should wash their hands before touching you.
- Your illness, surgery, or the medications you are receiving may cause you to be unsteady.
 - Please ask for help when you want to stand or get out of bed.
 - If you do get out of bed, always wear nonskid slippers and move slowly.
 - Keep your call bell within reach.

Support People, Family and Visitor Information

When you sign in at the surgery family waiting room:

- Prepare to provide a contact phone number, e.g. cell phone. If you prefer a beeper, it will be provided.
- A confidential patient identification code protecting your identity.
- Patient tracking code instructions explaining how to follow your progress through all stages of surgery.

“In addition to your designated support person, you may have additional family or friends in the waiting room. When the procedure is complete, the surgeon will meet with your designated support person or will call provided phone number.



After Surgery

After Surgery

- If you had an outpatient procedure, you will recover in outpatient recovery or Post Anesthesia Care Unit (PACU).
- The doctor will talk to your family after surgery is complete. Families are not able to visit in the recovery area, unless the patient is a child, and parents will be able to be with the child as soon as possible.
- PACU nurses will closely monitor you throughout your recovery and respond to your individual needs. Tell the PACU nurse if you have pain, nausea or other sick feelings.
- You will receive pain and/or nausea medication to keep you comfortable.
- You will feel sleepy and your mouth may be dry. You might have a mild sore throat if a tube to help you breathe was used for surgery.
- After your vital signs are stable, your pain is under control and you are more awake, you will be transferred to OPS or a room in the hospital.
- If you are to be admitted to the hospital, your recovery room nurse will take you to your hospital room when you are awake. The recovery room nurse will notify your family of your room number and when you are being taken to your room.
- If you are going home on the same day as surgery, you will return to the OPS area for discharge as soon as you are awake.

- Recovery times vary and you may be at the hospital for several hours or possibly most of the day.
- Prior to discharge, the staff will make sure you are able to sit up and take in some liquids.
- Discharge instructions will be reviewed at this time, including how to take care of yourself once you are home and your follow up needs.
- You will then be able to get dressed and a staff member or volunteer will accompany you to your car to go home. Remember to bring a responsible adult with you to drive since you will be recovering from surgery and will not be allowed to drive. A responsible adult must stay with you at home for the next 12 hours after your surgery. You will be asked to provide the driver's name and contact information before your surgery.

At Home

After surgery, it is important that you rest. Do not do any of the following for 24 hours after your surgery: Drive, drink alcoholic beverages, make critical decisions, use chemical substances, operate machinery or take drugs/medications not approved by your surgeon.

If you have any questions about your follow-up care, please call your surgeon.



Telephone

The Admissions' staff provided you with a card listing your room and telephone number. Please make this information available to your family and friends so they can make direct calls to you. Others who want to call can simply dial (681) 342-1641/1642 and ask for your room.

You may dial out at any time; however, incoming calls are not directed to your room between 10 p.m. and 7 a.m.

Cellular Phone Use

Cellular phones may not be used in the following areas: Critical Care, Operating Room, Recovery Unit, Emergency Department clinical areas, CT, Catheterization Lab and Special Procedures.

Patients connected to telemetry monitors should refrain from using cellular phones or they may compromise the staff's ability to monitor them. Cellular phones can interfere with patient monitors and with the nurses' ability to see alarms.

Cellular phones may be used in all other areas.

Local calls

There is no charge for making local or toll free calls.

To make a local call: Dial "9," followed by the local number. Example: 9, (681) 342-xxxx.

To make a toll free call: Dial "9," followed by the number. Example: 9, 1-800-xxx-xxxx.

To call long distance

Using a calling card

You may use your calling card by dialing "9," followed by the number listed on your card, Example: 9, 1-800-CALL-ATT.

Charging call to a credit card

When patients want to call long distance, and don't have a cell phone or a long distance calling card, please call the UHC operator for instructions by dialing "0".

To call the hospital operator

Dial "0".

TDD/TTY

TDD/TTY services for the deaf/hard of hearing are available at UHC. If you would like this service, please have a nurse on our floor notify a clinical coordinator.

UHC's TDD/TTY number is (681) 342-1005.

Important Phone Numbers

Admissions – Central Registration	(681) 342-1700
CancerLine	1-800-924-2083
Chaplaincy	(681) 342-1735
Diabetes Education	(681) 342-1862
Gift Shop	(681) 342-1633
Home Health	(304) 624-2424
Hospice	(304) 624-2424
Laboratory	(681) 342-1500
Patient Information (room/phone numbers)	(681) 342-1641
Patient Safety Issues/Concerns/Complaints	(681) 342-1604
Physician Referral	(681) 342-3790
United Rehab Bridgeport	(681) 342-3790
Sleep Disorders	(681) 342-3290
Social Services	(681) 342-1670
TTY/TDD for deaf/hearing impaired	(681) 342-1005
United Transitional Care Center	(681) 342 5100
Volunteer Services	(681) 342-1630
Wound Center	(304) 842-1034

24 Hour Suicide Hotlines In a crisis situation please call 911 or 1-800-SUICIDE (1-800-784-2433) or 1-800-273-TALK (1-800-273-8255)

United Summit Center Crisis Hotline

1-800-SUMMIT-0 (1-800-786-6480)

24 Hour Statewide Hotline to Report Abuse or Neglect For an Adult or Child

1-800-352-6513



POLICY: At UHC concern for the rights and dignity of every patient is a high priority and an expectation of every associate. The hospital also expects responsible behavior from patients and visitors in order to assure quality care and respect for all concerned.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this policy is to set forth reasonable expectations of the relationships between UHC, its patients and their visitors and to encourage the patient's participation in his or her care.

Patient Rights Responsibilities

ACCESS TO CARE

Individuals shall be accorded impartial access to treatment or accommodations that are available and medically indicated regardless of race, color, creed, sex, national origin, religion, or source of payment. Appropriate care will be provided without regard to whether or not patients have completed advanced directives. Information on the extent to which the hospital is able, unable or unwilling to honor wishes is given upon admission if the patient has an advance directive.

RESPECT AND DIGNITY

Patients have a right to considerate, respectful care under all circumstances with recognition of the patient's personal dignity. Such respect includes consideration of the patient's religious, social, cultural and personal values, beliefs and preferences. The hospital allows patients to keep and use personal clothing and possessions unless it infringes on others' rights, is medically or therapeutically contraindicated.

PRIVACY AND CONFIDENTIALITY

Patients shall be given every consideration of privacy both in their treatment and care and in the communication of their medical and financial information. This includes reasonable physical privacy during examinations, interviews and care, and access to information only for those directly involved in the patient's care. The environment will support the positive self image of patients including sufficient storage space to meet their personal needs.

SAFETY AND SECURITY

Patients have the right to protection from mental, physical, sexual and verbal abuse and exploitation from staff, students, volunteers, other patients, visitors or family members. The hospital has a safe available to secure personal items. UHC is not responsible for personal items unless specifically given to a UHC staff member to be locked in the hospital safe. Patients/families are encouraged to have personal belongings taken home.

IDENTITY

Patients have the right to know the identity and professional status of individuals providing services and to know which physician or practitioner is primarily responsible for their care.

INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION

- *Telephone & Mail Service* – Patients have access to telephone and mail services throughout their stay.
- *Treatment Information* – Patients have a right to receive from their attending physician complete and current information concerning diagnosis, treatment and current prognosis in terms the patient can reasonably be expected to understand. This includes the right to an interpreter or other appropriate means of communication when language or physical handicap would hinder communication. This also includes the right to review your medical record with your physician and to have the information explained, except when restricted by law. Patients and when appropriate their families, are informed about the outcomes of care, treatment and services including unanticipated outcomes. Patients have the responsibility to ask questions or acknowledge when he/she does not understand the treatment course or care decision.
- *Organ & Tissue Donation* – Patients have the right to information, education and participation in organ and tissue donation.
- *List of patient advocacy groups is available on request.*

CONSENT AND PARTICIPATION IN CARE

Patients have a right to reasonable informed participation in decisions involving their care, including decisions regarding the initiation and the withdrawal of life-sustaining treatment. This participation should be based on a clear, concise explanation of the patient's condition, the risks and benefits of the treatment, and the alternatives to treatment. Procedures should only be performed with the voluntary and competent consent of the patient or the patient's legally designated representative. If the patient is not capable of making such decisions, their health care providers will honor their wishes as expressed in any advanced directive such as the living will or medical power of attorney to the extent permitted by law and hospital policy. UHC involves the patient's family in care, treatment and service decisions to the extent permitted by the patient or legal representative.

MANAGEMENT OF PAIN

Patients have a right to adequate pain management, including the right to information about pain relief options from their physicians and nurses. The patient has a right to participate with their physician in the process of measuring their pain.

REFUSAL OF TREATMENT

Patients have a right to refuse care, treatment and services within the limitations of the law, without jeopardizing other care and services provided by UHC. Patients are responsible for their actions and condition when exercising such rights. When such refusal compromises professional standards of care the physician or practitioner, upon reasonable notice, may terminate the relationship. When the patient is not legally responsible, their healthcare providers will honor their wishes as expressed in an advance directive and with the surrogate decision maker as allowed by law to refuse care, treatment and services on the patient's behalf.

CONSULTATION

Physician – Patients have the right to request the consultation of another physician when desired.
Pastoral/Other Spiritual – UHC accommodates the right to pastoral and other spiritual services for patients.

RESEARCH

Patients have a right to be informed of any human experimentation, research, or educational project involving their care and treatment. The patient may refuse to participate in any of these activities without compromise to their ongoing care needs.

CONTINUITY AND TRANSFER

Patients have the right to be informed of the need for and the alternatives to transfer to any other facility, including the right to request a transfer to another facility. Patients also should expect to be informed by their physician or other practitioners of any continuing healthcare requirements following discharge from the hospital.

CHARGES

Regardless of the source of payment, patients have a right to request and receive an itemized explanation of the bill for services rendered in the hospital. Patients also have a responsibility for prompt attention to their hospital bill or other hospital related financial commitments.

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HOSPITAL RULES AND REGULATIONS

Patients and their visitors have a right to be informed of rules related to their care and conduct, and they have an obligation to abide by such rules that are in place to support quality care for patients and a safe environment for all individuals in the hospital.

PROVISIONS OF INFORMATION

Patients have the responsibility to provide, to the best of their knowledge, accurate and complete information regarding present symptoms, past illnesses, medications and other matters related to their care. The patient is also expected to communicate any changes in his/her condition to the responsible practitioner including risks, information on service needs and expectations. You or your family should report to your nurse any symptoms or concerns about your care. The hospital encourages the patient and/or family to seek assistance if the patient condition is changing or worsens. A rapid response team is available as a resource for you and your nurse to assist in assessing symptoms and early interventions to help avoid life-threatening events. Patients have a right to access, request amendment to and receive an accounting of disclosures regarding his/her own health information as permitted under applicable law including advance directives.

COMPLIANCE WITH INSTRUCTIONS

Patients are responsible for following the treatment plan recommended by the practitioner directing their care, including instructions of nurses and allied health personnel as they carry out the practitioner's instructions and enforce applicable hospital policies.

RESPECT

Patients and their visitors are responsible for being considerate of the rights of other patients and hospital associates, including the control of noise, smoking and number of visitors. Patients and hospital staff and licensed independent practitioners have the responsibility to support mutual consideration and respect by maintaining civil language and conduct in interactions with one another.

VISITATION

Patients generally have the right to receive or restrict visitors, whether a spouse, another family member, a domestic partner (including same-sex domestic partner), a

friend, or clergy member. This right is subject to clinically or administratively necessary limitations that may be reasonably placed on such rights. UHC will not restrict visitation privileges on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, or disability. UHC wants all visitors to enjoy full and equal visitation privileges consistent with patient preferences and legitimate regulation.

Primary supporting visitors will generally be able to visit anytime during the patient's hospital stay based upon the patient's wishes or, if applicable, the direction of the patient's support person. These primary supporting visitors are those who are determined by our staff to be needed and who are particularly willing and encouraged to be involved in the patient's care as well as to provide assistance and comfort to the patient. They are encouraged to notify staff when they have concerns about the patient's condition or any changes in the patient's condition. They may be informed that a Rapid Response Team is available as an additional resource to assist in assessing for significant changes in symptoms and to provide early intervention to help avoid life-threatening events. Examples of how such a primary supporting visitor can benefit the patient include calming a confused patient or notifying staff when a patient is attempting to disrupt a treatment or therapy.

WHEN PROBLEMS ARISE

Patients have a right to be informed of the mechanisms available for communicating, becoming involved in and resolving concerns, problems and suggestions related to their care. Patients have a right to pursue the resolution of problems without reprisal or an adverse affect on their care.

ASKING QUESTIONS

Patients are responsible for asking questions when they do not understand what they have been told about their care or what they are expected to do. This includes expressing concern over the ability to follow the plan of care.

ACCEPTING CONSEQUENCES

The patient and family are responsible for the outcomes if they do not follow the care, service or treatment plan.

ETHICAL DECISIONS AND ISSUES

In the course of your treatment you and your family may be faced with making important treatment choices. We respect your right to make such decisions based on the available medical information as well as on your personal beliefs and values. In order to make informed and appropriate decisions we suggest you consider these issues:

- Do you have the information you need to make the decision?
- Have you designated someone to make decisions about your care in case you are unable to do so (advanced directives)?
- Have you expressed to your physician and family your wishes about prolonging care should you become terminally ill?
- Do you need further clarification of the issues involved or help in thinking through your decision?

ASSISTANCE IS AVAILABLE

• If you have not completed an advanced directive (a Living Will or Medical Power of Attorney) and wish to do so, please ask your

nurse for assistance. The hospital will honor advanced directives in accordance with law and regulations and the hospital's capabilities.

- A hospital chaplain is available to discuss the religious and ethical issues of your decision. The hospital chaplain will also contact your own minister, priest or religious representative at your request.
- UHC's Ethics Committee is also available to assist you, your family and your physicians in thinking through these issues. The Ethics Committee is comprised of various health care professionals such as physicians, nurses, chaplains, social workers and psychologists and is consulted in situations involving particularly difficult ethical decisions. To involve the Ethics Committee discuss your desire with your physician or nurse.

RESOLVING PROBLEMS

The staff at UHC recognizes that problems may arise in the course of your treatment. It is our goal to resolve problems as quickly and satisfactorily as possible. Also, we invite both your positive and negative feedback as it assists us in improving the care we provide. The patient can freely voice, report problems and complaints and recommend changes without coercion, discrimination, reprisal, and unreasonable interruption of care, treatment or services. If you have a problem, suggestion or need to discuss your care with someone you may:

- Ask to speak to the manager of the department involved.
- If a problem or complaint is not resolved to your satisfaction by the staff on hand you may file a patient grievance by calling the Risk Manager at extension 1604 and you are entitled to receive a written response to that grievance.
- Call the hospital switchboard operator after normal hours and on weekends.
- File a complaint with West Virginia Office of Health Facility Licensure and Certification, 408 Leon Sullivan Way, Charleston, WV 25301, (304) 558-0050; Livanta LLC, BFCC-QIO Area 5, 10820 Guilford Road, Suite 202, Annapolis Junction, MD 20701-1105, Phone: 1-888-396-4646, TTY: 1-888-985-2660; The Joint Commission, One Renaissance Boulevard, Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181, (800) 994-6610. At www.jointcommission.org, using the "Report a Patient Safety Event" link in the "Action Center" on the homepage of the website. By Fax to 630-792-5636. For more information on how to contact the above agencies, call the Risk Manager at extension 1604.

NONDISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

WVU Medicine United Hospital Center complies with applicable Federal civil rights laws and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, or sex. WVU Medicine United Hospital Center does not exclude people or treat them differently because of race, color, national origin, age, disability, or sex.

Translation Services

ATENCIÓN: si habla español, tiene a su disposición servicios gratuitos de asistencia lingüística. Llame al 1-681-342-3240.

注意：如果您使用繁體中文，您可以免費獲得語言援助服務。
請致電 1-681-342-3240。