

The staff at Rodney Surgical Centre look forward to caring for you during your forthcoming surgery. We realize that this period may be stressful for you, and the following information is supplied to help you prepare for your operation/endoscopic procedure.

## **BEFORE YOUR ADMISSION TO HOSPITAL**

This information sheet is designed to help prepare you for your surgery and hospital stay. Our Admission section includes four pages of questions relating to your visit. They provide us with important information about your personal and contact details, health history, consent to treatment, any special needs and payment arrangements.

Please read carefully and complete all sections fully to ensure we can make your stay with us a safe and comfortable one. Your surgeon will explain details of your surgery and sign your “consent to surgery” with you. Your anaesthetist will explain details of your anaesthetic and sign your “consent to anaesthesia” with you at Rodney Surgical Centre on the day of your surgery. Return this form as soon as possible to our PO Box detailed below or, if this is not possible, phone to confirm that you will bring it with you on the day of surgery. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your Specialist or RSC.

## **ENSURE YOU:**

- Have completed any tests and investigations ordered by your surgeon.
- Have contacted your Health Insurer and obtained a “prior approval” number and letter covering your payment arrangements.
- Have an ACC approval letter, if applicable.
- Know when to stop eating and drinking before your admission and surgery.
- Continue your regular medications and natural remedies as normal unless instructed by your surgeon to stop.
- Know what kind of illness may mean your surgery will be postponed and who to contact should this happen.
- Know when to arrive for admission and where to report.
- Arrange for someone to transport you to and from hospital and to have a responsible adult stay with you at home for at least 12 hours following surgery, or longer if necessary.

## **YOU MUST BRING**

- All documentation relating to your surgery including letters, notes and medication details.
- Test results, scans or x-rays which you may have.
- Insurance “prior approval” number/letter and ACC approval letter, if applicable.
- Any personal aids such as glasses, hearing aids, dentures, walking stick.

## **CLOTHING**

- Please wear loose, comfortable clothing (sleepwear is not required).
- If having surgery to foot or leg, please wear flat sandals or slippers.

## **WE ADVISE NOT TO BRING**

- Valuables such as jewellery and cash. RSC is unable to take responsibility for the safe keeping of these valuables.
- Your vehicle. For your safety and to meet legal requirements, you are not permitted to drive for 24 hours following surgery and anaesthetic.

## **ON ADMISSION DAY**

On the day of surgery, please report to RSC Reception at the appointed time. Our facility is located on the first floor and entry can be made via the lift or stairwell.

We constantly strive to minimize patient waiting time but, as you will appreciate, we cannot always predict exactly how long each case will take. If you are kept waiting, please accept our apologies for this.

- **If you are having a General Anaesthetic, DO NOT eat or drink for six hours prior to surgery.** This includes gum and sweets. **One exception is water which you may continue to drink until two hours prior to surgery.** Should your Specialist give you different instructions, you should adhere to them.
- **If you are having a Local Anaesthetic,** you may have a light meal **two hours prior to admission.**
- We ask that your support person does not wait in reception during your procedure – our staff will call them to come back.
- Allow plenty of time to get to the hospital. If for any reason you are delayed, please contact us as soon as possible.

## YOUR PHYSICAL SAFETY

- Please be sure you have provided us with all the information regarding any special needs you may have in the “health questionnaire” to assist us in planning your care.
- RSC is smoke-free in accordance with the Smoke-free Environments Act.

## CHILDREN HAVING SURGERY

A parent or guardian is required to sign a consent form for anyone under 16 years of age. We encourage parents or carers to remain with their child before and following surgery. Their favourite toy is welcome too. We will reunite you with your child as soon as is practicable after the procedure when your child has recovered from the anaesthetic. Children may wear their own pyjamas to theatre, but these must be loose fitting. Please also bring a change of clothing to wear home should a change of clothing be necessary.

## DISCHARGE HOME

Your doctor/s and nurse will discuss with you arrangements for your discharge home. Before you leave, please ensure that you have:

- Made arrangements for someone to drive you home.
- Arranged for an adult to stay with you overnight or longer if required.
- Finalised any outstanding payments.

## YOUR RIGHTS

RSC is committed to delivering care in accordance with the code of the Health and Disability Services Consumers' Rights, a copy of which is available on request and on display throughout the facility. If you would like a copy of these rights, please ask the staff who will be happy to provide you with one. Your rights are:

- Respect and Privacy
- Dignity and Independence
- Effective communication
- Choice and Consent
- Rights during teaching and research
- Fair treatment
- Appropriate standards
- Information
- Support
- Your complaints taken seriously

## FEEDBACK

RSC welcomes your feedback to assist us to continuously improve our services. Our feedback form can be found on the website.



**IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY DIAL 111 FOR AN AMBULANCE.**