Same Day Surgery (Phase II PACU)

If the patient is not being admitted to the hospital, they will return to the ASU after the Operating Room or the Post Anesthesia Care Unit. The ASU staff will call you in the waiting room or at the number you have provided. You will be directed to return to the ASU and once there, you may remain with your family member/friend until the time of discharge.

An informative guide about what to expect while your family member/loved one is in the Ambulatory Surgery Center at St. Charles Hospital.

Patient Tracking #
**Before Surgery**  
*(Pre-Op)*

You may join your family member in the Ambulatory Surgery Unit (ASU) after they are prepped for surgery. You can remain with them until they are taken into the operating room (OR). There, you will meet with the anesthesiologist, the surgeon and the OR team. Once your family member is taken to surgery, you can stay in the ASU waiting room or leave and return later. If you choose to leave the hospital, we ask that you provide us with a phone number where you can be reached.

If the patient is a child, we have a special Parent in the OR Program that allows one parent to accompany their child into the OR as well as for parent visitation in the Recovery Room or PACU. Ask us! We’ll be happy to tell you all about it.

**During The Procedure**  
*(Intra-Op)*

Once the patient is taken into the OR you may then proceed to the ASU waiting room. There you will find a complimentary hot beverage cart or you may wish to visit our full service Café located on the first floor.

Once in the waiting room, please notify the surgical receptionist of your presence and inform them of your family member’s name. This is where the surgeon will look for you after surgery.

Prior to going to the OR, you will be given a tracking number in order to follow your loved one’s progress throughout the surgical process. A Surgical Status Board is located in the Waiting Room and this is where you will track and find information on where your family member is at any given time.

Please remain in the waiting room so that you are able to speak with the surgeon. Again, if you plan to leave the hospital, please notify the surgical receptionist or volunteer.

It is not unusual for procedures to take longer than expected. If you should find the waiting period is much longer than anticipated, please speak with the surgical receptionist. They will be happy to call into the Operating Room or Recovery Room to provide you with an update and an approximate time that you will be able to see the patient. Please remember that all times are approximate.

**After Surgery**  
*(Phase I PACU)*

After the surgeon speaks with you, it could take up to an hour before the patient is transported to the Post Anesthesia Care Unit (PACU)/Recovery Room. The PACU phase is typically a minimum of 1½ - 2 hours.

Visitation in the Post Anesthesia Care Unit (PACU)/Recovery Room is limited and only at the discretion of the nurse and the patient. Please keep in mind that each patient’s comfort, well-being and privacy are our first priorities. Should you visit your family member/friend in the PACU, we ask that you please keep the visit brief, as this is a time when rest plays an important part in a patient’s recovery. We are always very happy to answer all your questions and address all your concerns, so please feel free to share them with us.

Occasionally, a post-op room for patients is not immediately available due to unanticipated high patient census. In those cases, your family member/friend will remain in the PACU where they will receive the same high quality care they would receive on the post-op patient unit. If the patient is waiting for a bed assignment, you will be permitted to visit in the Recovery Room according to the Hospital’s general visitation policy.

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