Surgical Services

General Information

Let us guide you from Pre-registration to Recovery.

Parking
Whether you’re scheduled for surgery as an outpatient and are going home the same day, or are having your surgery as an inpatient at The Medical Center, you’ll need to be aware of available parking.

Guest parking is accessed off Center Street directly across from the main entrance to The Medical Center, and patients with disabilities may be dropped off at the 18th Street entrance. Valet parking is also available at both entrances.

Please arrange for someone to drive you home if you are going home the same day of your surgery.

Pre-Anesthesia Testing
Pre-Anesthesia Testing is important prior to surgery for many reasons, primarily to protect the patient by avoiding complications of any kind.

For example, anesthesia is administered according to a patient’s medical history, weight, height, and other considerations, so it’s important for the staff to be aware of these factors to provide the safest, appropriate care according to the needs and condition of each patient.

How to Schedule Your Pre-Anesthesia Testing Appointment
Your surgeon’s office will typically schedule your anesthesia consult appointment for you in our Pre-Anesthesia Testing Unit (PAT).

If not, please call the Surgery Scheduling office Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. at 706-571-1471 to make an Anesthesia Consult appointment.

Appointments should be scheduled 3-10 days prior to surgery date. When scheduling, be aware that the consult process may take up to 2-3 hours, beginning with registration.
Contact Us:
Midtown Medical Center
Surgical Services
710 Center Street
Columbus, Georgia 31901
(706) 571-1471 (Monday-Friday, 7 a.m.-5:30 p.m.)
(706) 571-1000

Surgical Services: Pre-Registration

Pre-Register Online
Pre-registering on-line saves you time when you arrive for your appointment.

If your physician has scheduled you for a procedure, test, surgery or if you are pregnant and require an OB visit, take advantage of this time-saving service from the comfort of your home by visiting pre-registration page. All information is secure and confidential.

What to Expect On the Day of Your Pre-Anesthesia Testing Appointment

Phase 1: Registration (verification of information, insurance and photo I.D.)
Phase 2: Nurse and anesthesia consult
Phase 3: Lab, EKG, X-ray

Plan to arrive at Patient Registration 30 minutes prior to your appointment.

Bring all paperwork from your doctor.

Patient Registration is located on the lobby level of Midtown Medical Center.

To expedite your registration process, bring all insurance cards showing policy numbers and/or anesthesia consult.

Please bring all medications you are currently taking in the original bottles or make a list to include dosages, strength and frequency taken daily.

If you are diabetic, be sure to eat before your arrival on the day of Pre-Anesthesia testing.

If you have information or results from previous diagnostic testing, please bring these with you.

Before your surgery/procedure date, a registration representative may call you regarding your insurance coverage and related information. We will verify with your surgeon that the appropriate precertifications have been obtained.

Our representative also will provide you with the information about your deductibles and co-pay for the surgery/procedure.

Surgical Services: FAQs

Frequently Asked Questions about the Pre-Anesthesia Testing Unit (PAT)

What is the PAT Unit?
It is the “Pre-Anesthesia Testing Unit”.

Where is the unit located?
It is located on the 3rd floor next to the Cardiology department.

What do I need to bring with me?
Patients need to present any documents received from their primary care physician or surgeon. They should also include a list of their medications or bring all medications as well as any other health related documents. If they have a language or communication barrier, they should bring a family member or designated person to assist.

How much time does the process take?
On average the process usually takes about one hour. There are some cases in which the process may take up to several hours. This is usually dependent on the condition, orders and type of surgery for that patient and any other unexpected factors prior to the surgery date.

Who works in the PAT Unit?
The unit is staffed with Registered Nurses who will conduct a full health history. Most tests include lab collection and EKG’s which are done in the unit. Chest x-rays are performed on the second floor in the Radiology department.

What do we do?
Patients are interviewed to obtain information about their health history. All testing is ordered by the patient’s Surgeon or by an Anesthesiologist.

The staff collects data from the patient’s related health records and prepares for follow up with cardiac or medical clearance if indicated.

The surgical record is begun from the point of registration and follows the patient throughout the surgical process. The staff also provides education and answers any questions from the patient or family regarding the surgical process.

Why do patients need to go to the PAT Unit?
Pre-testing prevents delays by allowing adjustments to medications or further work-up prior to surgery, which enhances health decisions related to surgery.

Anesthesia is administered according to a patient’s medical history, weight, height, and any other considerations for that particular surgery, and is provided according to the need and condition of each patient.
Surgical Services: What to expect on the day of surgery

Your surgeon’s office will inform you of:

Time to arrive if you are an Outpatient (going home following surgery).
If you can have anything to eat or drink before surgery.
Medications you should or should not take prior to your surgery.

Holding Room
Prior to your surgery, you will be taken to a Holding Room where you will be prepared for the type of surgery you’ll receive.

Recovery
When your surgery is over, you’ll be monitored in the Recovery Room while your body stabilizes and the effects of anesthesia begin to wear off. The length of stay in the Recovery Room can vary depending on the type of surgery.

Following this initial period of time, you will be taken to a second Recovery Room, where you will remain until it is time to either go home or taken to your hospital room.

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