



**May 12, 2020**

**Patient Information:**

**Rescheduling of Outpatient Ambulatory Surgeries at HealthAlliance Hospital and MidHudson Regional Hospital**

Outpatient ambulatory surgical services are those for which a patient enters and leaves a surgical facility on the same day, without an overnight stay. **HealthAlliance Hospital and MidHudson Regional Hospital** have met certain state criteria to resume these procedures -- based on the status of coronavirus impact in specific counties, including a drop in COVID-19 cases.

Patients who were able to defer an elective outpatient procedure or test will be contacted to reschedule pre-procedure testing as well as their surgery. **We have taken extraordinary measures to protect our workforce and patients, and to ensure that all our care environments are safe.**

Please Note: Emergency and urgent surgeries have continued without deferral throughout the pandemic, regardless of a patient's infection status.

**Patients should review all pre-operative directions with their surgeon when planning for their surgery. This general information is not intended to replace that clinical direction.**

**What to Expect: Preparing for Surgery**

- Patients will be called to schedule a pre-surgical testing visit, which will take place in a safe environment within the hospital where the surgery will be taking place.
- As a mandatory safety protocol, the pre-surgical testing visit will include a COVID-19 test within three (3) days of the scheduled procedure.

- Each patient must follow stringent safety precautions to avoid possible infection before the procedure date itself. For **at least 14 days** prior to a surgical procedure these safety precautions include, but are not limited to, the following:
  - Maintain social distancing.
  - Follow all preventative measures from the CDC and New York State, which include wearing a cloth face covering in public when social distancing might not be possible.
  - Minimize trips away from home.
  - Inform the healthcare provider performing the surgery or procedure if there has been any contact with a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19 or a person with symptoms consistent with COVID-19.
  - Inform the healthcare provider of any symptoms consistent with COVID-19 or a positive test result for COVID-19.
- Any patient who tests positive for a COVID infection will be re-tested before elective surgery can be rescheduled.

### **What to Expect: Surgery Day -- Arriving at the Hospital – and Going Home After Surgery**

- Visitation restrictions remain in place, so patients need to arrange to be dropped off.
- Hospital staff will escort patients from main entrance to ambulatory procedure area.
- COVID-19 symptoms will be re-assessed, and patient will be prepared for procedure in a safe, protected environment.
- When a patient is cleared for discharge after the procedure, his or her ride will be called, and the patient escorted to Main Entrance for pick up.

### **Your Safety**

Our care teams have the training, equipment and capability to provide care safely – for our patients and for each member of our workforce. All CDC guidelines are met or exceeded when it comes to our use of personal protective equipment as well as cleaning processes for all parts of our hospitals and surgery centers. Rest assured, your experience will be comfortable and secure.

### **Do Not Wait for Care**

Any individual with new or concerning symptoms or a change in health status should not wait for care and should call their primary physician's office or come to an emergency room. If you need a primary care physician, please call us at **845.338.1535** (Ulster County) or **845.244.8500** (Dutchess County). The health and well-being of our community, our patients and our workforce is our number one priority. We are here for you – at any time – especially now.

###