



In Surgery - Safety Precautions and Infection Control

At Howard County General Hospital, our goal is to always provide our patients with very good care and service. Your safety and well-being are very important to us. Please read the following information and instructions carefully. You are an important part of our patient care team and we value your participation in your surgical process. Please feel free to ask us any questions regarding your care.

One of our nurses will review this information with you before your surgery to be sure you fully understand the measures we take to be sure you have a safe surgery.

Identification and procedure verification

- We will verify your name and date of birth, the correct site and side of your surgery and the correct procedure we intend to perform. This confirmation will take place:
 - When the procedure is scheduled.
 - When you enter the facility.
 - Before you enter the procedure room.
 - With you involved, awake and aware, if possible.

Marking the procedure site

- The site of your procedure will be marked, if necessary, before you are taken to the procedure room.
- You will be awake and involved in the marking, if possible.

Time-out

- A time-out will take place before your procedure during which all members of the procedure team will confirm:
 - Who you are.
 - The procedure to be performed.
 - The side and site of the procedure.

Infection Control

- Staff members use an alcohol-based hand cleaner or wash their hands with soap and water both before and after contact with you. If you aren't certain they have cleaned their hands, please ask them to do so. We also encourage you to wash your hands or use the hand cleaner located in your room.
- Gloves are worn to prevent the spread of infection. You may notice staff wearing gloves while drawing your blood and performing certain procedures.
- Please cover your mouth when you sneeze or cough and properly throw away your tissues.
- If isolation measures are needed, you and your family will receive instructions from your nurse.

Prevention of surgical infections

- Depending upon the type of surgery you are having, your surgeon may order an antibiotic for you before surgery.
- Although the operating room may feel cold, you will be kept warm with warm blankets and IV fluids during and after your procedure.
- High blood sugar increases your risk of infection. During surgery, we will monitor and control your blood sugar to reduce this risk if you are diabetic.

Prevention of blood clots in your legs

- During your surgery, you may have special equipment placed on your legs or feet to keep blood from pooling in your legs. This will be ordered by your surgeon, if needed, depending upon the type and length of your surgery.
- You should walk as soon as possible after surgery to enhance blood flow and decrease your risk of developing blood clots.

Thank you for choosing Howard County General Hospital. Our staff is happy to answer any questions you may have at any point during your experience. Please do not hesitate to stop us if you have a question.