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Pre-op Instructions for Surgery on _____

Your doctor has scheduled you for out-patient surgery. You have been given an appointment card detailing the date and time. These instructions will help ensure that your procedure will go smoothly and that you are informed of what to expect.

After scheduling your appointment, we ask that you obtain polysporin ointment, gauze bandages and tape for the post-operative care following the procedure. These are readily obtained at any drug store. Do not take aspirin, Aleve or ibuprofen within seven days of your procedure unless you have been instructed to take aspirin by your physician for heart disease. Do not stop coumadin, plavix or other prescription blood thinners. Avoiding alcohol and vitamins will help decrease bleeding and bruising. You may take your regular medications and Tylenol before and after the procedure. A list of possible blood thinners is provided for you. For those who need to take antibiotics before dental procedures, minor skin surgery does not need prophylactic antibiotics. If you have any questions or concerns regarding this, please consult your primary physician.

On the day of the surgery please eat breakfast or lunch. If the operative site is on the face, please do not apply any lotions or make-up if you have a morning appointment.

IT IS IMPORTANT TO ARRIVE 15 MINUTES PRIOR TO THE TIME OF YOUR APPOINTMENT SO THAT WE CAN START ON TIME.

PLEASE BE AWARE OF OUR POLICY FOR MISSED SURGICAL APPOINTMENTS.

Upon arrival, the medical assistant will escort you to the surgical room. Although the doctor is aware of your specific procedure, the medical assistant will ask again so that she may prepare for your procedure and provide you with the consent form. In advance, your doctor should have explained the procedure, the reason for the procedure, the possible risks and complications and the possible outcome if you do not have the procedure. If you have any questions regarding this, you should inform the medical assistant. She will then ask you to sign a consent form which will state that you understand these issues and that you agree to have the procedure performed.

Skin surgery is a relatively easy process. After injecting xylocaine, a local anesthetic, the skin around the area to be removed will feel numb. If you have had any allergic reaction to anesthesia, please inform us. The injection will cause some minor discomfort or pain. After the area is anesthetized, you shouldn't feel sharp pain but you will be aware of pressure and manipulation of the skin during the procedure. An electric cautery may be used to stop minor bleeding during the procedure. Please inform your doctor if you have a pacemaker, defibrillator or any other implanted electrical device.

Skin surgery creates a wound that is closed using stitches. Depending on the body location and size of the wound will determine how many stitches are used. After the procedure, the assistant will clean and dress the wound and instruct you in the care of the wound. You will receive written instructions as well. It is important for you to understand that all surgery will result in a scar that is permanent. Depending upon a number of factors, such as location on body, genetic healing tendencies, post-operative wound care or possible complications will determine how visible the scar will be. All surgical scars improve with time. The final healing of a wound takes about one year. The stitches will need to be removed at a later time that will be scheduled after your procedure. When scheduling the initial surgical appointment, please be certain that you will be in town for the suture removal. You should ask the doctor how long your stitches will be kept in prior to removal. If it is unavoidable that you will not be in town, please make arrangements for the stitches to be removed by a qualified person such as another doctor, nurse or urgent care center.

The specimen that is removed will be sent to a laboratory for examination. The results usually take about a week to come back. Please call our office for the test results or you may wait until you come back for the post-op visit.

We are always available to answer any questions you may have. Please do not hesitate to call for clarification of these instructions or any other matter relating to your surgery.