



What to Expect Before, During, & After Anesthesia

Anesthesia Care Team Your anesthesiology care team is comprised of an anesthesiologist, a certified registered nurse anesthetist (CRNA), or both.

Anesthesiologists are skilled physicians who complete a four-year college program, four years of medical school, and four additional years of internship and anesthesiology residency.

CRNAs are skilled advanced practice nurses who complete a four-year college program and have, at minimum, a master's degree in the practice of anesthesia with a background in critical care nursing. Many CRNAs also have a doctorate degree.

Your anesthesia care team is responsible for your comfort and well being before, during, and after your surgical procedure. In the operating room, your anesthesia provider manages vital functions, including heart rate, blood pressure, heart rhythm, body temperature, and breathing. The anesthesia provider is also responsible for fluid and blood replacement (if necessary). With your safety in mind, he or she will regulate the anesthetic so that you are as comfortable as possible when you wake up.

Preoperative Interview During a preoperative visit in the days leading up to or on the day of your procedure, an anesthesia provider will evaluate your medical condition, including your medical history and current medications. Please tell your anesthesia provider if you or a member of your family has ever had problems with anesthesia in the past (this includes any history of nausea or vomiting). You should also inform your anesthesia provider of any dental issues. The anesthetic choices, risks, and benefits will be discussed.

The Day of Surgery It is extremely important that you follow all directions regarding which medications you should or should not take before your surgical procedure, as well as when you should stop eating and drinking. Be sure to have a responsible adult with you at the facility to drive you home after the procedure.

Anesthesia Options

Your anesthesia provider, in talking with you and your surgeon, will determine which type of anesthesia is safest for you. Depending on the type of surgery and your health status, you may have several options for the type of anesthesia used during your procedure.

General Anesthesia—A type of anesthesia provided through a mask, IV, or advanced airway device that results in loss of sensation and consciousness. This form of anesthesia is typically utilized for more invasive surgical procedures.

Spinal/Epidural Anesthesia—A spinal is an injection given around the spinal cord to allow numbing of the body from the rib cage down to your toes. An epidural uses a small tube that will allow continuous dosing of the anesthesia medication.

Regional Anesthesia —An injection of medication near a cluster of nerves that results in a loss of sensation to a region of the body. This form of anesthesia is often accompanied by sedation through an IV to provide relaxation during the surgical procedure.

Local/Monitored Anesthesia Care—Your surgeon will inject local anesthetic to numb the small area that is being operated on and your anesthesia professional will give you sedation to relax you during the procedure.

During Surgery Advanced technology is used to monitor your body's functions. Your anesthesia care team will interpret these sophisticated monitors in order to appropriately diagnose, regulate, and treat your body while a personalized, delicate balance of anesthetic medications is administered.

Your team of anesthesia providers utilizes available resources during your anesthetic experience to optimize your safety and comfort. Remembering activities surrounding your procedure, such as immediately before or after an anesthetic, is a normal occurrence—especially with a Regional or Local Sedation Anesthetic. Patient awareness under General Anesthesia is an extremely rare event.

After Surgery Your anesthesia care team is responsible for your care in the recovery room, often called the post anesthesia care unit (PACU). Specially trained nurses will monitor your condition and vital signs as the effects of the anesthesia wear off. What can you expect?

- Some pain after a surgical procedure is normal. You will be given medications, as needed, to help control your pain.
- Side effects of anesthesia may include nausea and/or vomiting for which medication can be given, as needed, to help alleviate this side effect.
- It is not uncommon to feel weak or woozy after anesthesia.
- It is not uncommon to experience muscle aches or shivering.
- You may experience a sore throat for a couple of days if you had General Anesthesia.
- If you received a Regional Anesthetic, you may have a loss of sensation and movement in that region of the body for a period of time.

Anesthesia may remain in your system for up to 24 hours. Therefore, the following Do's and Don'ts are important:

- **Don't** drive a car or operate heavy equipment for 24 hours.
- **Don't** drink alcohol for 24 hours.
- **Don't** make any important decisions or sign legal documents for 24 hours.
- **Don't** smoke.
- **Do** drink plenty of fluids.
- **Do** eat food as tolerated.
- **Do** take pain medications if needed and as prescribed.
- **Do** rest quietly at home in the care of a friend or relative for 24 hours.

Billing Your anesthesia care team is made up of specialists, just like your surgeon or internist. You will be billed for the professional services of your anesthesiologist and/or your CRNA, as you would from your surgeon. Your hospital will charge separately for medications and equipment used during your surgery and anesthetic.

If you have any questions regarding your anesthesia professional services bill, please call our patient liaison.

Shannon Russo-Leboff

Direct Line: 833-988-4677

General Line: 706-650-0705 ext. 2235

Patient Satisfaction Your satisfaction with your care is very important to us. Within 3-5 days after surgery, you may receive via email a Patient Satisfaction Survey from our Quality Assurance partners at ePreop. We would greatly appreciate your feedback on this survey, as your anesthesia experience and suggestions are valuable to us. You may also receive a separate survey from the facility about your overall experience. Your input on both of these surveys is greatly appreciated.



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