

# Adult Preoperative Clinic Letter

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You have an appointment booked at the Hamilton Health Sciences (HHS) Preoperative Anesthesia Clinic as you are having surgery at one of our three hospitals: McMaster Children's Hospital, Juravinski Hospital or the Hamilton General Hospital.

Our team of experts at the Preoperative Clinic will assess your health, current condition, medications and perform necessary tests to make sure you are in the best shape possible for your surgery.

Please note not all patients will be required to come in person to see the anesthesiologist.

If you do not have to come in person to the clinic, an anesthesiologist will assess you on the day of your surgery.

## What to Expect:

### 1. Anesthesia Health Questionnaire (on MyChart)

- Before your initial nurse phone call visit, we will ask you to fill out a questionnaire on MyChart about your health and current condition.
- Filling this form out to the best of your ability will allow the visit to be as efficient as possible.
- Please do not worry if you are not able to fill out the information on MyChart.
- The nurses and anesthesiologist will work with you to ensure important information is documented.
- For questions / concerns accessing MyChart, please contact [epicmychart@hhsc.ca](mailto:epicmychart@hhsc.ca) or contact Health Records at 905-521-2100 x42087.

## **2. Preoperative Clinic Nursing Visit (over the telephone)**

- Your surgeon's office has booked a phone call visit with one of our Preoperative Clinic nurses.
- The nurses will do their best to call within 1 hour of your booked time.
- The call may be delayed due to the number of patients we serve and potential staffing shortages.
- Your patience is appreciated.

### **During the nurse phone call the nurse will:**

- Go over important information on the questionnaire.
- Confirm your answers and ask for additional details if necessary.
- Give you important information about how to prepare for your surgery.
- Instruct you on where to go on the day of surgery and what to bring to the hospital.
- A lot of information will be exchanged during these phone calls.
- Some patients find it helpful to write things down or seek assistance from a family member or trusted friend.
- Information will be emailed to you by the nurse after the phone call or be available in MyChart for review.

## **3. Our Pharmacy Team**

If you are taking medications at home you may get an additional call from a member of our pharmacy team. This call may come before or after the nurse call.

### **During the pharmacy phone call a member from the team will:**

- Accurately record all your medications and how you are taking them.
- They may give you instructions on how to take your medications before surgery.

**\*Medication instructions may also come from the anesthesiologist if you are required to have an in-person visit\***

#### **4. In-Person Anesthesiologist Preoperative Clinic Visit (690 Main Street West, Hamilton, Ontario)**

- You may be required to come to the Preoperative Clinic in person so that a board certified anesthesiologist or a resident anesthesiologist doctor can see you in person.
- We know your time is valuable and we have carefully designed criteria to select only those patients that need assessment in person by our team of anesthesiologists to come in person to the clinic.
- While at the Preoperative Clinic, tests ordered by your surgeon to make your surgery safe will be completed.
- Please expect to be at the clinic 2-4 hours for the assessment.
- We recommend bringing snacks, books or activities.

#### **At the Preoperative Clinic, you can expect the following:**

- You will be checked in by our clerical staff and directed to the waiting room.
- You will be seen by the nurse who will take your heart rate, blood pressure, height and weight.
- The nurse will also perform any necessary tests and investigations ordered by your surgeon (electrocardiogram, blood tests, and will send you for x-rays if ordered).
- You will meet with one of our anesthesiologists who will confirm details of your health and current condition.
- Together, you and the anesthesiologist will discuss and design an anesthesia plan for surgery that best fits your needs.
- The doctor you see in clinic may not be the anesthesiologist who will care for you on the day of your surgery.
- Information is documented for the anesthesiologist taking care of you on the day of surgery.



Our Preoperative Anesthesia Clinic team of nursing, pharmacy and anesthesiology experts are thrilled to be part of your health care journey with HHS.

We are committed to ensure your anesthesia plan is designed for you and that your surgery at HHS is as safe and as comfortable as possible.

Sincerely,

The Preoperative Clinic Team