

continued

Q. Should I eat and take my medication on the day I come to the PSS Clinic?

A. Yes – please do.

Q. Do I need to bring a family member or support person to the Clinic?

A. If you have any concerns, you should bring someone, especially if you have any difficulty with walking, hearing or understanding.

Q. What do I do if I am sick on the day I am supposed to visit the Clinic?

A. Please call as soon as possible so that we can reschedule an appointment.

Q. Will all the necessary preparation be completed after the clinic visit?

A. Most of the time, yes. But sometimes, the anesthesiologist may determine that you need further tests or that you need to be seen by another specialist. Any arrangements will be made by the Clinic Staff.

Q. Will this delay my surgery?

A. Possibly, if there is not enough time before your surgery to complete the necessary tests or consults. Your surgery would then be rescheduled as soon as possible.

Q. Will my clinic visit be a separate date from my surgery?

A. Yes. Every effort will be made to limit the amount of traveling that you do but it is very important that you are properly prepared for surgery.

Q. When will I be given instructions for the day of surgery?

A. Depending on where you are having your surgery and what you are having done, instructions may come from either your doctor's office or the Pre Surgical Screening Clinic. You may also receive a phone call a day or two before your surgery reminding you of the important instructions, what medication you should take beforehand, when you should stop eating and drinking and when you

should come into the hospital. At some sites, you may have to phone to find out what time to come in.

Q. Where can I get more information?

A. From your surgeon's office or from the Pre Surgical Screening Clinic at your local hospital. Information will also be available on the Interior Health web site.

The Interior Health Surgical Services Project was created to give you the best care possible. This means we are striving for:

- Shorter wait times.
- More information for patients to make decisions on their care.
- Greater accessibility to services.



Interior Health

Patient Safety Begins Here...

The Pre-Surgical Screening Program



Frequently asked questions about the Pre-Surgical Screening Program

“It’s about making our operations better, to give you a choice”



Interior Health

www.interiorhealth.ca



The Pre-Surgical Screening Program

Patient Safety begins here. At Interior Health, we are doing everything possible to ensure you are receiving the safest and most efficient healthcare possible.

At Interior Health, we have created a Pre-Surgical Screening Program to make sure you have:

- The proper screening tests done before your surgery.
- Information on what you should expect when you come in for your surgery.

When patients are properly prepared for surgery, we anticipate fewer delays and cancellations.

Questions and Answers about the Pre-Surgical Screening Program

Q. What does pre surgical screening mean?

A. It is a process to make sure that you are properly informed and fully prepared for your surgery.

Q. How does it work?

A. It will start with you filling out a questionnaire in the Surgeon's Office, which will be sent into the hospital with the booking information. Then, nearer the date of your surgery, you will be telephoned by a nurse from the Pre Surgical Screening (PSS) Clinic

at the Hospital where you are going to have the surgery. She will ask you a series of questions about your health and your social situation.

Q. What happens next?

A. You may be given routine instructions over the phone or you may be asked to come into the Pre Surgical Screening Clinic to be interviewed and assessed further by the nurse, and/or the anesthesiologist, and/or another medical professional as needed.

Q. When do I find out the date of my surgery?

A. This will depend on where you are having your surgery. You may be notified either by your surgeons' office or the booking office at the hospital.



Q. Do I need any lab tests?

A. That will be decided by the clinic nurse, who will make arrangements.

Q. Where will the lab tests be done?

A. If you are not coming in to the Pre Surgical Screening clinic, the nurse will make arrangements for you to have them done three to five business days before your surgery at your local hospital lab. If you are coming in to the PSS Clinic, the lab tests will be done at the time of your visit.

Q. How long will the Clinic visit take?

A. Every effort will be made to be efficient on the day of your visit but it will still likely take two or three hours.

Q. Who will I be seeing?

A. Initially, the Clinic nurses will complete their assessment and give you information and instructions concerning your procedure. You may also be assessed by an anesthesiologist who will discuss with you plans for anesthesia and postoperative pain control. It is also possible that you may visit with another health care professional such as a pharmacist or physiotherapist, depending on circumstances.

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