



## Immediately Before Surgery – What to Expect

1. You may have a pre-operative visit with your physician where you will sign the consent forms for your surgery. At this time, ask your physician any questions you may have about the procedure. If you have concerns about blood transfusion, this is the time to discuss them with your physician.
2. You may also have a pre-operative visit with someone from the anesthesia department. They will review your medications and ask some questions about your general health. If you are in good health you may meet the anesthesia team the morning of surgery instead.
3. You will be given instructions regarding diet prior to your surgery. Some physicians recommend a “bowel prep” which can be a laxative or an enema the day before your procedure. Ask your doctor about this.
4. If you are going to have an anesthetic, you will be instructed to not eat or drink after midnight or for a minimum of six hours prior to your surgery.

### Questions to Ask Your Doctor at Your Pre-op Visit

Many women are very anxious at their pre-op visit and forget to ask questions. The following is a list of common questions to review with your surgeon or their support team:

- Should I do bowel prep before surgery?
  - Enema
  - Laxative
- Should I shave my pubic hair?
  - In general, shaving a day or two before surgery should be avoided as it is associated with a greater risk for skin infection. Your surgeon may choose to shave near the incision when you are on the operating table.
- Can I get my post-op medication prescriptions ahead of surgery?
  - This makes the trip home from the hospital a bit easier.
- How much time should I plan to be off from work?
  - Be sure to bring or mail all disability insurance forms as soon as possible
  - Remember to find out if a return to work release form is needed from your employer
- What is the typical length of the hospital stay for my procedure?
  - How many nights will I be at the hospital?
  - Is there a standard discharge time?
  - Can I arrange a late discharge- my ride can't come until after work?