

Preparation for Surgery at Sansum Foothill Surgery Center

Sansum Foothill Surgery Center (FSC) is committed to providing our community the safest possible care throughout the process of having surgery. We understand that patients have added concerns about visiting a health care facility during the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. We closely monitor and carefully follow current policies and recommendations from federal, state and local public health agencies. While we have always maintained our facilities at the highest standards of cleanliness, disinfection and safety as recommended by CMS, CDC and the State of California, we are taking **extra** measures during this pandemic to protect you, as well as our staff. As a result, we have a few new policies as described below.

Before Surgery

When your surgeon's office determines your surgery date, an appointment will be scheduled for you to have a **test for COVID-19 virus** through the Sansum Clinic lab. The test is done by a nurse, who will come to your car and swab your nose and throat. It is essential that you obtain the test and show up for your test appointment on time. **We will not perform surgery without the result of the test.** The result will be available in 48 to 72 hours, and will be communicated to FSC, your surgeon and primary physician directly. Anyone with a positive test result will have surgery postponed until they are re-evaluated.

We implore all patients to observe current mandated public health measures, including staying at home and observing social distancing measures. In the week prior to surgery please monitor yourself for development of a fever, new cough, shortness of breath or pain with breathing. After you have been tested we request you self-isolate at home until the day of surgery. You should take care to avoid exposure to anyone who has recently traveled, has any of the above symptoms or who was recently diagnosed with Coronavirus. Please call your surgeon or primary care physician if you develop these or other flu-like symptoms. Your surgery will be **cancelled** if you report to FSC with any of these symptoms the day of surgery.

Prior to the day of surgery, a preoperative nurse specialist will telephone you to review your health history and provide final instructions, including food and liquid intake, as well as when to come to FSC. You will also be asked about the development of a fever, cough or shortness of breath, exposure to anyone who is or has recently been ill, and travel history.

The Day of Surgery

For your safety, and others, we **require** that you wear a mask when you come to FSC and at all times when inside the building. You may wear a cloth mask, or purchase a mask from CVS, Walgreens, Wal-Mart or online. If you don't have a mask one will be provided to you. When you arrive and park at FSC please telephone the registration desk at **(805) 681-6550** to let the staff know you have arrived. You will receive instructions as to when to proceed to the entrance to the facility. Upon entering the front door, you will be greeted by a nurse who will ask you a series of screening questions regarding your recent health and check your temperature. This screening process is **mandatory** for anyone entering the facility. Afterward you will be escorted to the FSC registration desk to begin pre-surgery care.

For the safety of all patients and staff at FSC we are not allowing family members or visitors into the facility at any time, with the exception of a parent of a minor. This is **essential** to enable us to ensure safe physical distance for patients and staff while in the facility. Anyone accompanying you to the facility will be asked to remain in their car or return when you are ready to be discharged. Please have their phone number with you. We will contact them when you are recovered and instruct them as to when and where to pick you up. Discharge and follow-up instructions will be given to them when you are discharged from the facility and brought to the car.

We understand that these changes may pose extra challenges for many patients, but we are committed to your safety and safeguarding your health through your preparation, surgery and recovery at FSC. These policies are in accord with national guidelines and we believe they are essential.