

# **ST. LUKE'S HOSPITAL-ANESTHESIA SERVICES**

## **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)**

### **Who will provide my anesthesia?**

A team lead by a board certified anesthesiologist and certified nurse anesthetist will provide care for you.

### **May I choose my anesthesiologist? When will I meet my anesthesiologist?**

Yes. Our qualified team is excellent and most patients are satisfied with whom they are assigned. However, should you have a preference, every effort will be made to honor that request.

In most cases, you will meet your anesthesiologist on the day of your surgery. At this time, your anesthesiologist will briefly gather some standard medical information and inform you about what to expect.

### **Are there different kinds of anesthesia?**

There are four main types of anesthesia from which to choose:

- General anesthesia provides loss of consciousness and loss of sensation.
- Regional anesthesia services involve the injection of a local anesthetic to provide numbness, loss of pain or loss of sensation to a large region of the body. Regional anesthetic techniques include spinal blocks, epidural blocks and arm and leg blocks.
- Monitored anesthesia care/sedation consists of medications to make you drowsy and to relieve pain. These medications supplement local anesthetic injections, which are often given by your surgeon.
- Local anesthesia, which provides numbness to a small area, is often injected by your surgeon. In most circumstances, an anesthesiologist will not be present.

Our overarching goal is to provide our patients with the most high quality, safest approach to support a timely recovery. If there are choices, your respective anesthesiologist will review them with you prior to surgery.

### **May I request what type of anesthesia I will receive?**

Yes. Based on the type of surgery, and your medical history, some procedures may be completed using different types of anesthesia. If options are available, your anesthesiologists will review them with you prior to surgery.

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### **What are the risks of anesthesia?**

While St. Luke's is committed to providing our patients with most high quality, safe environment, nevertheless, all procedures and associated anesthesia have some degree of risk. Based on your medical history, conditions and type of procedures, complications can occur.

At the same time, complications and risks are rare. These risks are minimized by virtue of our qualified team providing detailed pre-operative reviews on all patients prior to surgery. In addition, we offer our patients the highest in anesthesia technology.

### **Will I receive any sedatives before surgery?**

You and your anesthesiologist will develop an anesthetic care plan. This plan will include preoperative sedation and other medications if necessary.

### **Should I take my usual medications?**

You will be instructed by both the anesthesia team and the surgeon as to which medications you must take. Generally we request that you take most medications on the morning of surgery. However, some medications will be stopped for the surgery, particularly diabetes medication and blood thinners. You should bring these medications with you the day of surgery. Please call us with any questions you may have.

### **May I drive home?**

No. Patients will not be allowed to drive home following any type of procedure that involved anesthesia services. Please make the appropriate, and necessary arrangements in advance.

### **Will I be billed separately by the anesthesiologist?**

Yes. Based on insurance, you will realize a specific, separate bill for your anesthesia services.