

Care Information

As you go through the process of getting ready for surgery, going to surgery and recovering from surgery, you may encounter medical equipment, activities or procedures that are unfamiliar. Some devices or information presented here may only apply for inpatients. Please check with your surgeon if you have any questions about the information presented in this section.

Devices

A pulse oximeter is a small clip placed on your finger to measure the oxygen carrying capacity in your blood. It helps to determine whether you will need supplemental oxygen.

An IV (intravenous) line is a small, sterile, plastic tubing through which fluids and necessary medicines are given. This is started before you go to the operating room.

TED hose are compression stockings that may be placed on both legs immediately after surgery to help control swelling in your legs.

Cooling devices are used to reduce swelling and to provide comfort, depending on your surgical site and your surgeon's preference.

A drain may be placed near your surgical site as your surgeon closes the incision. This provides an outlet for any excess bleeding or drainage.

If you stay overnight as an inpatient, you may have the following:

- A catheter may be placed in your bladder during surgery to assist you in emptying your bladder after surgery. If you are able to use a bedside commode or get to the bathroom with assistance it is usually removed the day following surgery.
- An incentive spirometer is used for breathing exercises to be done on a regular basis following surgery. This helps to prevent a low-grade post-operative fever that sometimes occurs from lying flat on the back with slow, shallow breathing.

