

*Welcome to the Edwards Surgical Pavilion at Anne Arundel Medical Center. This brochure will explain to you the various steps of your stay with us.*

## Registration

Our facility consists of six operating rooms and pre-operative and post-operative areas. You will be greeted at our front desk area by one of our volunteer Auxiliary members. After that, a Customer Service Representative will register you for surgery. You will be asked to verify information you provided during your pre-procedure call. We ask that you show your driver's license or identification card, and provide your current health insurance information.



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# Edwards Surgical Pavilion

*Patient & Family Information*



Once you are registered, your family member or another individual you designate will be given a pager and asked to wait in the waiting area. You will be taken into our pre-procedure area to prepare for your procedure. Most patients spend at least four hours at Edwards, including registration, procedure, and recovery.

## Pre-Procedure Area

While in the pre-procedure area you may be asked to empty your bladder before you go into surgery. A Patient Care Tech will take your height, weight and vital signs. You will then be directed to one of our prep areas, where you will change into a hospital gown. A bag for your clothing will be provided. Valuables should be given to a family member or someone of your choice. If no one is available at this time to take your valuables, they can be placed in a locker for you.

A tech or a nurse will start an intravenous line (IV) that will be used to administer medications to you. When this is completed and any necessary blood work is done, you will be interviewed again by a pre-op nurse. This is to assure that all of your information is correct. A Patient Liaison Nurse will bring your family back to wait with you until you are taken to surgery. Your surgery start time is an estimate; it may start earlier or later than scheduled. We will do our best to keep you informed of any changes.

## Just Before Surgery

Before going into the operating room, your surgeon, anesthesiologist (if you are getting anesthesia) and a circulating nurse from the operating room will talk to you about your procedure, answer your questions and alleviate any concerns you may have. They will confirm the procedure and verify your consent. Your surgeon will mark the site of your surgery. All of these procedures are important to assure the right procedure is performed on the right person.

Your anesthesiologist then will administer medication to you through your IV. This medication may make you feel sleepy and you may not remember or be aware of being taken to the operating room.

Your family and friends will return to the waiting area. They will be updated periodically by our

Patient Liaison Nurse about your surgery and be told when you are taken to the Post Anesthesia Care Unit (PACU). If your child is having surgery, one parent may go into the operating room until the child is asleep. We will provide the parent with a “bunny suit” coverall to wear over their clothes, a head covering, and shoe covers to maintain a sterile environment. Occasionally, a parent will not be permitted to go to the OR, but our Patient Liaison will help alleviate concerns by keeping the parents updated frequently during the procedure.

## Post Surgery and Discharge

When surgery is completed, you will be taken to the Post Anesthesia Care Unit (PACU). There are two phases to the recovery process. In Phase One, you are connected to a heart monitor, your vital signs are taken, and your pain level assessed. Medication will be given to you, as needed to control your pain. If you have been given general anesthesia, you will be in Phase One for a minimum of 30 minutes. Once your vital signs are stable and your pain is manageable, you'll then be dressed and seated in a recliner chair and then taken to our Phase II area.

This is Phase Two of the recovery period. Your family may now join you. Discharge instructions will be given to your family member or designated individual, who must sign the form to show it was received. After you receive your discharge instructions, your IV will be removed, and your nurse will let you know that you are now ready for discharge.

Your family or designated individual will be asked to pick you up at the front entrance of the Edwards Pavilion. You will then be discharged by one of our staff members. A staff member will call you the next day as a follow up to your procedure.

Thank you for choosing Edwards Surgical Pavilion at AAMC for your surgery.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### *Where can I park?*

Park in Garage C, next to the Acute Care Pavilion (main hospital). AAMC offers free parking.

### *How long will I be here?*

On the average, most patients are here for four hours. However, each situation is different, and you may be here longer or for a shorter period.

### *When can my family come into the pre-procedure area?*

Your family may join you after your nurse has admitted you, after your IV is started and after we have obtained your consent for surgery.

### *When can my family join me in the recovery area?*

Your family may come into the post-recovery area after your vital signs are stable, you have been dressed, and you are in a recliner chair and taken to Phase Two.

### *When can I join my child after surgery?*

It depends on the age of the child. When infants enter the recovery phase of their stay, a staff member will accompany one parent to be with the child.

### *When will my doctor talk to my family?*

Your doctor will speak to your family while you are recovering. If your family leaves the area, they will be asked to leave a cell phone number at which the physician can call them. Surgeons may have back-to-back surgeries and may not be able

to speak to family members immediately. The surgeons will attempt to speak with your family later.

### *Why can't I have anything to eat or drink after midnight?*

Your stomach must be empty prior to surgery so that your anesthesiologist can maintain your airway. This also decreases the chance of being nauseated after your surgery and reduces the chance of vomiting which could obstruct your airway. Please do not chew gum or suck on mints or lifesavers. These cause the stomach to increase its production of gastric juices.

### *What about my privacy?*

Anne Arundel Medical Center is required to follow the privacy regulations outlined in the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA). When you are here for surgery, we will give information about you only to those family members or significant others you have designated. If you are admitted, your privacy is our top priority.

