

We are pleased you have chosen CHI Memorial for your cardiovascular care. We understand coming to the hospital can be a stressful experience. With this in mind, we want to give you an idea of what to expect before and on the day of your scheduled procedure.

If you have any questions regarding your upcoming procedure, please feel welcome to call the Cardiac Catheterization/Electrophysiology lab at 423-495-8773. If you need to reach someone after 5:00 p.m., please call 423-495-4160.

Before Your Procedure

It is extremely important for your safety for you to follow instructions about food, beverages, and medications. If you do not, your procedure will be rescheduled to prevent possible complications during and following the procedure.

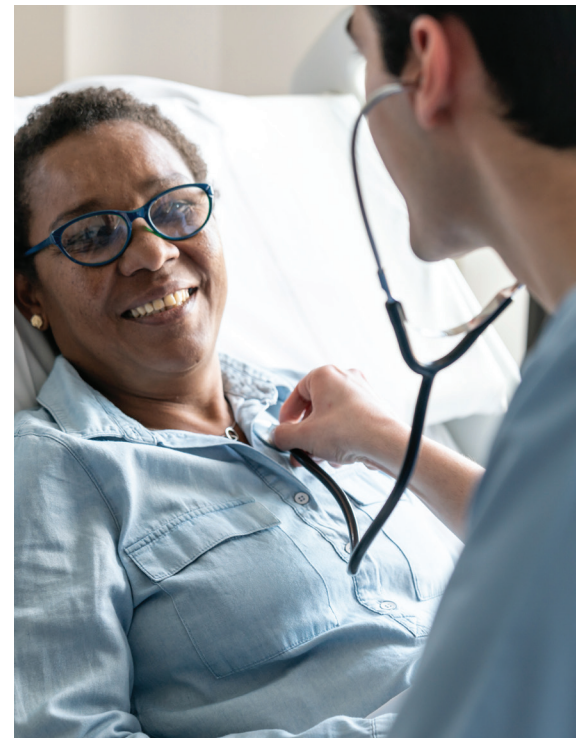
- Our Registration Department will call you to obtain current contact information, insurance, and alert you to any financial responsibility. CHI Memorial has financial aid to assist those who may have difficulty paying for care. We do not want anyone to forego care due to financial concerns. Please let us know at registration if you would like to speak to one of our financial aid counselors.



- A nurse will call you prior to your procedure to review your medical history and home medications. The nurse will also tell you which medications to take the day of your procedure. Sometimes the hospital's phone number is displayed on caller ID as "Unknown" or "Blocked". If you do not accept "blocked" calls, please contact the Chattanooga Heart Institute office at 423-697-2000 and provide an alternate number where you may be reached.
- Eat only a light meal the evening before your procedure.
- Do not eat or drink anything after midnight (not even water, mints, candy or gum). Follow any and all physician instructions. You may brush your teeth and rinse your mouth, but do not swallow.
- Do not drink any alcoholic beverages or take any recreational drugs 24 hours prior to your procedure.
- If you are a smoker, please do not smoke for at least 24 hours before and after your procedure. Smoking increases the mucous buildup and lung congestion, which can lead to pneumonia.

The Day of Your Procedure

- Arrange for someone to drive you to and from the hospital. You cannot have your procedure unless you have a responsible adult to drive you home. Patients will not be discharged to use public transportation or admitted due to lack of transportation.
- Please leave all valuables at home. Jewelry cannot be worn. This includes wedding rings and body piercing rings. No metal can be touching the skin during your procedure.
- Dentures, glasses and hearing aids should be given to a family member.
- Wear comfortable clothing.
- Contact lenses may not be worn during your procedure. If you wear them to the hospital, you must bring a container for storing them.
- Wear no makeup or nail polish to the hospital.



When You Arrive at the Hospital

- Valet parking is available or you may park in the area near Guerry Hear and Vascular Center (Entrance A).
- Check in at Registration.
- You will then be directed to the 2nd floor short stay information desk. One of our staff members will welcome you and provide you and your family with further instructions.
- Preparation for your procedure usually includes starting an IV, clipping the procedure site, and administering medications ordered by your physician. After these procedures, two family members may sit with you until procedure start time.
- Families will need to wait in the short stay waiting area where the physician can talk with them following your procedure.
- A patient advocate is available at the short stay waiting desk to address questions or concerns.

After Your Procedure

- Following your procedure, you will recover under the close supervision of your physician's skilled staff.
- If you are an outpatient, you will be taken to a room in the short stay unit to prepare for discharge home. Depending on your individual needs, your recovery times could range from 2-6 hours after your procedure is completed before you may be discharged.
- If you are spending the night, your room number will be assigned after your procedure. Your family will be kept informed of your room location and progress.

When You Get Home

- Written instructions for postoperative care will be given to you at discharge time. It is important for you to follow your physician's instructions for activity, medications, and diet.
- Drowsiness from medications may persist for several hours after your procedure. Do not drive, operate any machinery, sign any important papers or make serious decisions on the day of your surgery.
- After your procedure we will call to see how you are feeling. If we have not been able to reach you, please call us at (423) 495-4160.

