

PRE-SURGERY APPOINTMENT: THORACIC SURGERY

My pre-surgery appointment is scheduled for:

Date: _____ Time: _____

Location: J4-1 Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery Outpatient Center
(4th floor of the Miller Family Heart, Vascular & Thoracic Institute/J Building)

If you are having non-emergency thoracic surgery, you will have a pre-surgery appointment about 1 to 2 weeks before your surgery date. We will call you to schedule this appointment. Please use the space above to fill in the appointment information. You will get a lot of information at your appointment. We suggest bringing someone with you to help you take notes and remember important details about your surgery.

Appointment overview

We will give you information about how to prepare for surgery, the day of surgery (including the date, time and where to go) and your recovery.

Please plan to spend the entire day at Cleveland Clinic. We will try to schedule all testing and other appointments you may need on the same day, but you may need to come back another day to finish your appointments. We suggest that you bring cards, games, a book or other things to keep you busy while you wait.

Please bring the following to your appointment:

- Your insurance information
- A list of **ALL** medications you take. Please include non-prescription/over-the-counter drugs, vitamins and supplements.
- A list of all allergies you have

What happens during my appointment?

During your appointment, you will:

- **Meet an anesthesiologist** who is specially trained to give anesthesia to thoracic surgery patients.
- **Meet your surgeon:** We make every attempt for you to meet your surgeon on the day of your preoperative visit. If this is not possible, we will schedule a time for you to meet your surgeon.
- **Meet the surgical nurse clinician** who works with your surgeon. You will have a short exam and the nurse will go over your lab test results, medications and information about your surgery, including your surgery day and time and pain management after your surgery.
- **Get important surgery instructions and information:** You will get a binder that has detailed information about preparing for your surgery, your hospital stay and recovery.
- **Have any tests you need before surgery.**

Insurance Coverage for Surgery

To make sure the cost of your surgery is processed correctly by your insurance company, please:

- Make sure Cleveland Clinic has your current insurance information.
- Check with your insurance company to make sure you have completed all needed paperwork, such as pre-authorization for your surgery.

Cleveland Clinic will bill your insurance company for all charges related to your hospital stay. You will be billed for any charges not covered by your insurance.

If you have any insurance-related questions or concerns, please call the **financial counselor at 216.445.0430 or 800.223.2273 ext. 50430.**

IMPORTANT

- If you smoke/use tobacco, STOP IMMEDIATELY.
- If you take COUMADIN, STOP taking it FIVE DAYS before your surgery date. If you have any questions, call your surgeon's office.
- Carefully read the **Restricted Medications Before Surgery** sheet and make any needed changes to your medications before surgery. Keep taking your other medications as prescribed by your doctor. Call your surgeon's office if you have any questions about taking or changing medications before surgery
- **If you get a cold or the flu** within a few days of your surgery, call your surgeon's office.

Need help to quit smoking?

- Talk to your primary care doctor about ways to help you quit.
- **Ohio Tobacco Quitline:** 800.QUIT.NOW (800.784.8669)
- Contact your local chapter of the American Cancer Society, American Heart Association or the American Lung Association
- Use online government resources to help you quit smoking, including the Centers for Disease Control, National Cancer Institute, National Clearinghouse for Alcohol and Drug Information and World Health Organization Tobacco Free Initiative.

