Why is P.A.T. necessary before surgery?

Patient safety is our ultimate goal and P.A.T. is the best way to prepare for positive surgical outcomes. P.A.T. involves testing such as lab work, EKG and pulmonary studies if they are indicated after having a history & physical. This assures that a surgical patient is “optimized” or in the best physical condition possible prior to surgery. This optimization can mean that a patient may need referral to a specialist for clearance or further testing.

Informed consent needs to be a communication between a patient and their surgeon which discusses the risks and benefits of a procedure or surgery. Pre-existing medical and surgical conditions are an important part of this discussion. P.A.T. makes the patient and surgeon aware of any medical conditions that may influence the outcome of the surgery.

During your P.A.T. visit you can expect the following:

• Appointment time: You can expect your appointment time to be 30 minutes to three hours. *Your appointment time may be longer if your history is complicated or you are scheduled to see another department.*

• The P.A.T. staff will obtain a detailed medical history and a physical exam will be done.

• You will have vital signs taken and your height and weight will be measured. You may need an electrocardiogram (EKG), blood work or x-rays.

• You may be scheduled with other departments (physical therapy, respiratory) as ordered by your surgeon.

• After your P.A.T. interview, you may be asked to make a follow-up appointment with your physician to clear you for surgery. *You will be seen by the anesthesiologist on the day of your surgery.*

Save time – bring the following to your P.A.T. appointment:

• Write down the name/phone numbers of all of your current physicians and your family doctor.

• Have a list of your current medications (prescription and over-the-counter), dosage, and how often you are taking them.

• Have your past hospitalizations written down with dates and reasons admitted.

• Please dress casually for your exam - women no dresses or pantyhose.

• Insurance cards and picture identification.

• A copy of your living will and/or durable power-of-attorney, if you have one.

• If you have had blood work, an EKG, stress tests or a cardiac catheterization performed in the last six months, please bring a copy of those tests with you to your appointment. You can also have these test results faxed to the P.A.T. department before your appointment at 216.587.8882.