Outpatient and Extended Recovery Stays

Hospital stays of less than 24 hours are considered **outpatient services** by most health insurance providers.

**Change in the plan**

Many procedures and some surgeries are done as outpatient procedures. You planned to come in to have a procedure, expecting to stay for an hour or more in recovery and then go home.

Sometimes, your doctor decides that you need to stay longer after your procedure because you:

- Have pain, nausea or other problems that are not controlled
- Need to be watched for a longer time by the nursing staff
- Need to recover more before it is safe for you to go home

We will transfer you to a room on one of our nursing units. The nursing staff will check on you and provide needed care.

Your stay may be extended for observation, or your doctor may decide you are to be admitted to the hospital for a day or more.

**If your stay is extended**

Your doctor may tell you to plan on staying at the hospital a certain number of hours. If you live a long distance away, have your family or friend stay rather than drive home and then have to come right back for you.

If your doctor tells you that you need to stay in the hospital overnight, **plan to be ready for discharge by 12 noon the next day**. Arrange to have someone who will be able to pick you up **at noon**.

**If you need hospital admission**

If your health and safety after the procedure requires you to be hospitalized for a day or more, your stay becomes an inpatient service. Your insurance coverage for the procedure may change as a result from an outpatient service to an inpatient service. This could change your co-payment and other fees.

Please ask your doctor or nurse if you have any questions.

---

**Talk to your doctor or health care team if you have any questions about your care.**

The Library for Health Information is available to help you find more health information at (614) 293-3707 or e-mail: health-info@osu.edu.

© June 20, 2014, The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center.