

I came to the hospital on _____ and left on _____

I came to the hospital because _____



How I may feel and what I should do

These symptoms are **normal**

I may feel pain

- I should only take pain medication if it hurts when I take deep breaths.
- I should take my pain medication before my pain gets really bad.
- I should follow the instructions on my medication bottle.
- I should use less narcotic pain medication as my pain gets better. **I shouldn't** need narcotic pain medication for more than 1-2 days. Examples are Percocet, Oxycodone, Tylenol 3, Morphine, or Hydromorphone.
- **I can't** drive or drink alcohol while taking narcotic pain medication.
- I should talk to my pharmacist about using Tylenol Extra Strength and Advil.

I may feel constipated

- Pain medication can make it hard for me to have a bowel movement.
- I should drink lots of water, and eat lots of fruits and vegetables.
- **I shouldn't** strain or push too hard when having a bowel movement.
- I can take a stool softener like Senekot if I haven't had a bowel movement in 2 days. I should ask my pharmacist for help.

I may feel tired

- I will have less energy for 6-8 weeks after my surgery.
- Pain medication can also make me feel sleepy.
- I should rest when I'm tired.

I may not feel hungry

- I should eat smaller meals and snacks more often.

My notes and questions

These symptoms are **not normal**

- I have really bad pain that doesn't get better when I take medication.
- I have pain that is getting worse.
- I have pain, redness, or swelling in my lower leg.
- My incision looks more red or swollen.
- My incision has yellow or green drainage.
- My temperature is over 38.0°C or I have chills.
- I am coughing up anything that is yellow or green.
- I am coughing up a lot of bright red blood.

I need to **call my surgeon** or go to the nearest **emergency department** if I can't reach my surgeon.



These symptoms
are **an emergency**



- I have trouble breathing.
- I have new and really bad chest pain.

I need to **call 911**.

How I should care for my incision

- If I had a chest tube**
- If there is a bandage, I can take it off when I get home.
 - My family doctor or surgeon will take out the stitch where the chest tube was taken out in 7-10 days.
- If I have steri-strips** (small strips of tape on my incision)
- The steri-strips should fall off on their own in 7-10 days.
 - If they haven't fallen off on their own, I can gently take them off in the shower after 10 days.
- If I have staples**
- My surgeon or family doctor will take out my staples after 10-14 days.
- If I have a little bleeding**
- I should clean my incision with warm water in the shower, dry it with a clean towel, and cover it with a Band-Aid.

My notes and questions

How my activities will change

- Showering**
- I can shower 48 hours after my surgery.
 - I can let soapy water run over my incision, but **I shouldn't** rub my incision.
 - **I can't** have a bath, go swimming, or use a hot tub until I talk to my surgeon.
 - **I shouldn't** use any creams on my incision unless I have talked to my surgeon.
- Exercise and physical activity**
- I should practice deep breathing to keep my lungs healthy.
 - I should be active to help me gain strength and feel better.
 - I should go for walks often, but I should take a break when I need one.
 - If I had camera surgery, **I can't** lift more than 10 pounds for 2 weeks after my surgery.
 - If I had open surgery, **I can't** lift more than 10 pounds for 4-6 weeks after my surgery.

My medications

- I was given a list of medications I need to take.
- I was told why I need to take my medications.
- I was told about the side effects of my medications.

My appointments

- I was given a list of my appointments.
- Someone reviewed my list with me.
- I was told about the automated phone call.

Where I can go for more information

For information about...	I can call or go to...