

What happens in the Post Anesthesia Care Unit (PACU)?

Following his/her operation, your family member will recover from anesthesia in the PACU, where a PACU nurse will continually monitor him/her. The PACU nurse will frequently check blood pressure, respiration (breathing), and pulse as well as check dressings (bandages), regulate intravenous fluids (IVs), and begin pain medication as needed. When your family member is recovered from anesthesia, he/she will be moved to a hospital room or to the Surgical Day Care (SDC) area by the PACU nurse. The Surgical Waiting Room volunteer will be notified of the patient's discharge from the PACU and will inform you.

Average length of stay in the PACU is 1 to 1.5 hours for minor surgeries and up to 3 to 4 hours for major surgeries. If your family member stays longer than expected, do not be alarmed; a longer stay may be necessary to ensure that the patient receives the very best of care and is comfortable before being discharged.

When may I visit?

You will be able to see your family member once discharged from the PACU. Visitors are not permitted in the PACU; however, if your family member is staying longer than expected, the PACU nurse will try to contact you in the Surgical Waiting Room. Parents of young children will be invited into the PACU as soon as the child awakens from anesthesia.

After Surgery ...

The surgeon may want to speak with you about your family member; please do not hesitate to ask the surgeon for a private consultation room.

Our Volunteers ...

- Will assist you with communication between you and the PACU staff.
- Can provide additional information and assistance.
- May not be present in the lounge at all times. If there is an emergency while the volunteer is away from the desk, please use the telephone and call the operator.
- If the telephone rings and the volunteer is not present, please answer it; the PACU nurse may be calling to notify you of your family member's discharge.

Please be sure to check in with the volunteer upon arrival to or departure from the Surgical Waiting Room so the PACU nurse will know if you are waiting to rejoin your family member.

The nursing staff of the PACU strives to provide the very best care possible to your family member following their surgery. If you have any concerns or if we may better meet their needs, please do not hesitate to inform us. Thank you.

Other Amenities for Family and Friends

Located on the ground floor, the hospital cafeteria is open from 6:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. From the surgical waiting room, take the main elevators to the ground floor. The cafeteria is to the immediate right upon exiting the elevator.

The 1890 Café is located on the first floor and is open from 8:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Friday, and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the weekends. From the surgical waiting room, take the main elevators to the first floor. The 1890 Café is to the right, beyond the elevators.

The hospital chapel is located on the first floor. Follow the above directions and continue past the 1890 Café to the chapel.

Arrangements for translators may be made in advance for several languages, including French, Spanish, and the hearing impaired.

Elliot Hospital maintains a no-smoking policy for the health and comfort of patients, guests, and staff. There is no smoking within 50 feet of Elliot Hospital and affiliated buildings.

What can our staff do to make your wait more pleasant? We welcome your comments and suggestions:



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Welcome to the Surgical Waiting Area

**For Patients,
their Families
and Friends**

