Different Types of Patients or Procedures May Require Different Types of Anesthesia

**Pregnant patients** should prepare before the onset of labor for the possibility of having an anesthetic, even if a natural childbirth is planned. During pregnancy, keep accurate records of allergies, high blood pressure, prescriptions, and over-the-counter medications. The use of drugs, including recreational drugs and alcohol, can increase the risk of anesthetic complications for both mother and baby.

**Older adults** go through complex physical changes while aging that may affect their body’s response to anesthesia. You or your family can assist your anesthesia professional by providing a detailed list of all medications, including aspirin, taken regularly.

**Patients with hereditary disorders**, such as diabetes and sickle cell anemia, need special attention. These conditions can be managed properly if their anesthesia professional knows about them before a procedure.

**Children** should be specially prepared for anesthesia, and for surgery in general. Allow them to bring favorite toys along for their stay. Make frequent references to things children will enjoy after the procedure. If possible, take children on a hospital tour and let them talk with hospital personnel, particularly their anesthesia professional.

**Ambulatory care** allows you to go home the same day as your surgery. It is important, however, to provide the same accurate information during the preoperative interview. In addition, preparations should be made before ambulatory surgery for another adult to accompany you to the healthcare facility, drive you home, and monitor your recovery.

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**Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists**

**A Tradition of Quality Care**

Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs) are anesthesia specialists who administer more than 34 million anesthetics to patients in the United States each year. The nurse anesthesia specialty has a history of more than 150 years.

CRNAs represent a commitment to high standards in a demanding field. The educational requirements to become a CRNA are extensive. Prior to applying for admission to a graduate program in nurse anesthesia, a candidate must have a four-year bachelor of science degree in nursing or other appropriate baccalaureate degree, a current license as a registered nurse, and a minimum of one year of acute care nursing experience. The master’s degree nurse anesthesia program itself is 24-36 months, depending on university requirements. CRNAs are board certified, and mandatory continuing education is required for recertification every two years.

Nurse anesthetists provide high-quality anesthesia services combined with personal concern for the health and welfare of patients. They are happy to assist you and offer information about what to expect with your anesthesia.

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**Preanesthesia Questionnaire**

The preanesthesia questionnaire is used to help prepare you for the anesthesia process and determine the best anesthetic technique for you. You will be specifically asked about your medical history, current medications, prior operations, and allergies. Additional questions may include:

**Yes No**

- Have you recently had a cold or the flu?
- Are you allergic to latex (rubber) products?
- Have you experienced chest pain?
- Do you have a heart condition?
- Do you have hypertension (high blood pressure)?
- Do you experience shortness of breath?
- Do you have asthma, bronchitis, or any other breathing problem?
- Do you (or did you) smoke?
- Do you consume alcohol?
- Do you take or have you taken recreational drugs?
- Have you taken cortisone (steroids) in the last six months?
- Do you take any nonsteroidal, anti-inflammatory drugs?
- Do you have diabetes?
- Have you had hepatitis, liver disease, or jaundice?
- Do you have a thyroid condition?
- Do you have or have you had kidney disease?
- Do you have ulcers or other stomach disorders?
- Do you have a hiatal hernia?
- Do you have back or neck pain?
- Do you have numbness, weakness, or paralysis of your extremities?
- Do you have any muscle or nerve disease?
- Have you or any family members have sickle cell trait?
- Have you or any blood relatives had difficulties with anesthesia?
- Do you have bleeding problems?
- Do you have loose, chipped, or false teeth? Bridgework? Oral piercings?
- Do you wear contact lenses?
- Have you ever received a blood transfusion?
- (Men) Do you take Viagra?
- (Women) Are you pregnant?

Due date__________