Your Outpatient Surgery Center Experience
Valet parking is available at no charge.
You need to arrive about 2 hours before your surgery.
Check in with the receptionist. You will be given a pager.
The waiting room is usually staffed by volunteers. They can help escort patients to their car after surgery. They can also answer questions about the waiting area.
You have been told not to eat or drink. Coffee and water are available in the waiting room for your family or visitors. Vending machines are located by the elevators between the Outpatient Surgery Center and the Founder’s Building.
Family and friends can purchase snacks and meals at Adolf’s Grille on the lower level of the Founders Building. Take the elevators to LL and follow the signs. The hours for Adolf’s are 6:30 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Your case number will appear on a TV screen in the waiting area. The number will show when you are in surgery and when you move to recovery.
After you are paged, leave your pager with the family member or friend who came with you. Staff may need to contact them during or after your surgery.

A staff member will ask you to verify your name, birthdate, and what surgery you are having. We will record your weight and height.
You will be in your own pre-op or pre-procedure room before you go to surgery. We will need about 2 hours to get you ready.
You will change into a hospital gown. You will have two wrist bands. One will have your name and birthdate. The other band will list your allergies. For your safety you will be asked many times to state your name and birthdate.
Leave all jewelry, piercings, and watches at home. You may need to remove dentures, plates, or retainers, hearing aids, or contact lenses. If you are having hand or foot surgery remove all nail polish, nail covers or acrylic nails from that hand or foot.
The nurse will review your health history, medicines, and allergies. Please ask any questions you may have.

A staff member will attach monitors. This is for your safety.
Call. Don’t fall.

You will be given a call button. Use it if you need to go to the bathroom, need a warm blanket, or anything else. Always call first.

Never try to get up on your own.
An anesthesiologist will see you before surgery. This doctor is responsible for the relief of pain and your anesthesia care before, during and after surgery. He or she will examine you, review your health history and discuss your anesthesia plan and risks.
Your surgeon will see you before your surgery and will write his or her initials on the site of the surgery.
You will have a hair cover. You may have an oxygen tube in your nose.
You will have an IV placed in your hand. A warm, wet towel will be wrapped around your hand first. This helps the IV go in easier. The site will be cleansed and numbed before the IV is placed. You can move and use your hand after the IV is taped and secured.
For your safety, your identification band is scanned before medicines are given to you. The medicine label is also scanned. Most medicines are given through your IV.
The Operating Room
The nurse who prepared you for surgery will give the operating room nurse a report about you.
The operating room nurse will ask your name, birth date, and medical record number.
You will meet a nurse anesthetist or anesthesiologist assistant. They work under the direction of the anesthesiologist. They care for you during surgery. You may need to move to another bed in the operating room. The room may be cold. Staff can give you a warm blanket.
Monitors will be hooked up. Oxygen and anesthesia will be started. The surgery site will be cleansed. You may not remember this because of the medicine.
The Recovery Room
If you have general anesthesia, you will go the recovery room for about one hour. Nurses will check on you often as you wake up. While you are in recovery, a member of your care team will talk with your family.

Your comfort is important to us. Staff will give you pain medicine as needed. Your bed will be moved to a different room when you are awake. You can have something to drink. Visitors or family can be with you.
After surgery, you will be encouraged to drink fluids. You may have:

• Fruit juice (apple, orange, or cranberry)
• Coffee
• Water
• Soda (Diet Pepsi or Diet Sierra Mist)

You may be offered something light to eat. This depends on the type of anesthesia.
You can go home after you have had something to drink and your pain or discomfort is “tolerable to manageable.”
Your driver will be asked to pick you up in the front of the East Building revolving door.
Thank you for choosing Gundersen Health System for your surgery. It is a privilege to care for you in the Outpatient Surgery Center.