

Preparing for Your First Visit: A Checklist for Patients

Steward

Facing cardiac surgery can be a stressful experience for patients at any age. At the Steward Center for Advanced Cardiac Surgery at St. Elizabeth's Medical Center, our goal is to help make your experience as informative and comfortable as possible. To help guide you, we are providing you with a checklist of things to bring to your appointment with your surgeon.

Important information for your evaluation:

- Your personal and family health history
- Identification and insurance card
- Your medical history, including surgeries or procedures you may have undergone
- If you have operative reports, it may be helpful to include those
- A list of specific questions you want to go over with your physician

Questions to ask your doctor:

- How long do you anticipate my procedure will take?
- What should I expect in terms of recovery time?
- How involved is the procedure? What will my physical limitations be following surgery?
- Who will perform my procedure? Will you be performing my complete procedure or will a surgical resident perform a portion of it as part of their educational experience?
- What can I expect, physically, will take place during my procedure? Will you have to open up my chest cavity? If so, how will that be done? Will I experience any broken ribs as a result?
- If you are doing my procedure with the assistance of a robot, can you explain how that works? How does the robot operate? Who controls it?
- How long do you anticipate I will be in the hospital?
- Where in the hospital will I do my recovery? Will I need to be in the ICU?

- Who will keep my family/loved ones updated during the procedure?
- Where can my family wait while I am in surgery?
- After discharge, can I go home or do I need to go to a rehabilitation facility?
- How long with the recovery period be?
- When can I resume normal activities?
- When can I go back to work?

Other important information for your visit:

- If you had a previous cardiac procedure, please call our office administrators at 617-789-2045 to make sure they have the following medical records: Cardiac Imaging, Cath Lab/ECO CDS from your physician's office (or have them sent directly to us).
- You will receive a confirmation call from our clinic in advance of your scheduled appointment.
- We recommend you bring the following information about your primary care, referring physician and cardiologist: name, address, telephone number and fax number.
- When you arrive to our office, please show the receptionist your insurance information.
- We invite you to bring a friend or family member on the day of your appointment for support if you wish.

**If you have questions or need to reschedule,
please contact our office as soon as possible at
617-789-2045.**

St. Elizabeth's Medical Center

A STEWARD FAMILY HOSPITAL

Steward

Steward Center for Advanced Cardiac Surgery
St. Elizabeth's Medical Center
736 Cambridge St., Brighton, MA 02135 tel: 617-789-2045