



IT'S BETTER TO ASK QUESTIONS TO ASK BEFORE ANY SURGICAL PROCEDURE

Surgery or other medical procedures can be a challenging experience, for patients and their families. Since most procedures are not emergencies as a patient you should take advantage of the time you have to learn more about your procedure, how it will help, alternative treatments, the surgery's risks and benefits as well as other questions you might have to ensure that you are fully informed.

- What operation are you recommending?
- Ask your doctor or surgeon to explain it in detail, including its proper name and why the surgery is needed.
- Are there alternatives, including medications or nonsurgical treatments, to this surgery?
- What are the benefits of having the operation? How long will these benefits last? Is the procedure a cure to my condition?
- What are the risks of having the operation?
- In what ways might my life or condition change after surgery?
- What if I don't have this operation?
- What has been your experience in doing the operation? Are you board certified for this operation? How often do you perform this and similar operations?
- Where can I get a second opinion?
- Where will the operation be done? Will it be an inpatient or outpatient procedure?
- What type of incision will be done? Will it be an open procedure, minimally invasive or a laparoscopic procedure?
- What kind of anesthesia will be used for this procedure?
- What do I need to do to prepare for my surgery? Must I avoid food, beverages, or taking my medications prior to surgery? If so, for how long?
- What type of discharge instructions, restrictions & limitations should I anticipate following my procedure? Should I expect a need for post-procedure pain management? If so, what type?
- What should I anticipate in terms of recovery? How long will it take me to recover? Will I need to spend time in the hospital, rehabilitation facility or at home?
- How much will the operation cost? Will it be covered by my health plan? Remember to check your health plan's precertification requirements and call your plan's claims or nurse representative if you have any questions.

SMARTER IS BETTER

J.P. Farley's Advocates can help you navigate your plan coverage and find quality-based providers.

* This information is not intended to replace the advice of a physician.. Check your health plan for specific coverages.