Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

PATIENT & CAREGIVER EDUCATION

Instructions for Pulmonary Procedures at MSK Monmouth

This information will help you get ready for your pulmonary procedure at MSK Monmouth, one of MSK's regional locations.

About your pulmonary procedure

The procedure you'll be having is: _____

Your healthcare provider will give you information and talk with you about what to expect during your procedure.

Your procedure will be done at MSK Monmouth. Its address is:

480 Red Hill Road
Middletown, NJ 07748

Enter the building through the Lower Concourse entrance. A staff member will direct you to the surgical check-in area on the 2nd floor.

What to do before your pulmonary procedure

Talk with a nurse and plan your care

Before your procedure, you'll talk with a nurse to plan your care during your procedure. The way you talk with the nurse depends on where your procedure will be done. Your healthcare provider will tell you what to expect.

Presurgical testing (PST)

Your healthcare provider will tell you if you need presurgical testing (PST) before your procedure. PST is a regular physical exam. It can also include other medical tests that will give your care team important information about your health. PST helps your care team find out if you're healthy enough to have the procedure.

If you need PST, you will be scheduled for an appointment within 30 days (1 month) of your procedure. The date, time, and location will be printed on the appointment reminder from your healthcare provider's office. You can eat and take your usual medications the day of your appointment.

It's helpful to bring these things to your PST appointment:

- A list of all the medications you're taking, including prescription and over-the-counter medications, patches, and creams.
- Results of any tests done outside of MSK, such as a cardiac stress test, echocardiogram, or carotid doppler study.
- The names and telephone numbers of your healthcare providers.

During your PST appointment, you'll meet with a nurse practitioner (NP). They work closely with anesthesiology staff (specialized healthcare providers who will give you anesthesia during your procedure). Your NP will review your medical and surgical history with you. You may also have medical tests to help plan your procedure, such as:

- An electrocardiogram (EKG) to check your heart rhythm.
- A chest X-ray.
- Blood tests.

Your NP may recommend you see other healthcare providers. They will also talk with you about which medications to take the morning of your procedure.

Ask about your medications

You may need to stop taking some of your medications before your procedure. Talk with your healthcare provider about which medications are safe for you to stop taking. We've included some common examples below.

Blood thinners

Blood thinners are medications that affect the way your blood clots. If you take blood thinners, ask the healthcare provider performing your procedure what to do. They may recommend you stop taking the medication. This will depend on the type of procedure you're having and the reason you're taking blood thinners.

Examples of common blood thinners are listed below. There are others, so be sure your care team knows all the medicine you take. **Do not stop taking your blood thinner without talking with a member of your care team.**

- Apixaban (Eliquis®)
- Aspirin
- Celecoxib (Celebrex®)
- Cilostazol (Pletal®)
- Clopidogrel (Plavix®)
- Dabigatran (Pradaxa®)
- Dalteparin (Fragmin®)
- Dipyridamole (Persantine®)
- Edoxaban (Savaysa®)
- Enoxaparin (Lovenox®)
- Fondaparinux (Arixtra®)
- Heparin (shot under your skin)
- Meloxicam (Mobic®)
- Nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs), such as ibuprofen (Advil®, Motrin®) and naproxen (Aleve®)
- Pentoxifylline (Trental®)
- Prasugrel (Effient®)
- Rivaroxaban (Xarelto®)
- Sulfasalazine (Azulfidine®, Sulfazine®)
- Ticagrelor (Brilinta®)
- Tinzaparin (Innohep®)
- Warfarin (Jantoven®, Coumadin®)

Stop taking nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs)

NSAIDs, such as ibuprofen (Advil® and Motrin®) and naproxen (Aleve®), can cause bleeding. Stop taking them 2 days before your procedure. If your healthcare provider gives you other instructions, follow those instead.

To learn more, read *How To Check if a Medicine or Supplement Has Aspirin, Other NSAIDs, Vitamin E, or Fish Oil* (www.mskcc.org/pe/check-med-supplement).

Medications for diabetes

Before your procedure, talk with the healthcare provider who prescribes your insulin or other medications for diabetes. They may need to change the dose of medications you take for diabetes. Ask them what you should do the morning of your procedure.

Your care team will check your blood sugar levels during your procedure.

Diuretics (water pills)

A diuretic is a medicine that makes you urinate (pee) more often. Hydrochlorothiazide (Microzide®) and furosemide (Lasix®) are common diuretics.

If you take any diuretics, ask the healthcare provider doing your procedure what to do. You may need to stop taking them the day of your procedure.

Arrange for someone to take you home

You must have a responsible care partner take you home after your procedure. A responsible care partner is someone who can help you get home safely. They should be able to contact your care team if they have any concerns. Make sure to plan this before the day of your procedure.

If you don’t have a responsible care partner to take you home, call one of the agencies below. They’ll send someone to go home with you. There’s a charge for this service, and you’ll need to provide transportation. It’s OK to use a taxi or car service, but you still need a responsible care partner with

you.

Agencies in New York

VNS Health: 888-735-8913

Caring People: 877-227-4649

Agencies in New Jersey

Caring People: 877-227-4649

Tell us if you’re sick

If you get sick (including having a fever, cold, sore throat, or flu) before your procedure, call the healthcare provider who scheduled your procedure. You can reach them Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

After 5 p.m., during the weekend, and on holidays, call 212-639-2000. Ask for the fellow on call (covering) for the Pulmonary Service.

What to do the day before your pulmonary procedure

Note the time of your procedure

A staff member will call you after 2 p.m. the day before your procedure. If your procedure is scheduled for a Monday, they’ll call you on the Friday before. If you do not get a call by 7 p.m., call 212-639-5014.

The staff member will tell you what time to arrive for your procedure. They’ll also remind you where to go.

Instructions for eating and drinking: 8 hours before your arrival time

- **Stop eating 8 hours before your arrival time, if you have not already.**
  - Your healthcare provider may tell you to stop eating earlier. If they do, follow their instructions.
- 8 hours before your arrival time, do not eat or drink anything except these clear liquids:

- Water.
- Soda.
- Clear juices, such as lemonade, apple, and cranberry juices. Do not drink orange juice or juices with pulp.
- Black coffee or tea (without any type of milk or creamer).
- Sports drinks, such as Gatorade®.
- Gelatin, such as Jell-O®.

You can keep having these until 2 hours before your arrival time.

What to do the day of your pulmonary procedure

Instructions for drinking: 2 hours before your arrival time

Stop drinking 2 hours before your arrival time. This includes water.

Things to remember

- Follow your healthcare provider's instructions for taking your medications the morning of your procedure. It's OK to take them with a few small sips of water.
- Wear loose, comfortable clothing.
- If you wear contact lenses, wear your glasses instead, if you can. If you don't have glasses, bring a case for your contacts.
- Do not put on any lotion, cream, deodorant, makeup, powder, perfume, or cologne.
- Take off any jewelry, including body piercings.

- Leave valuable items, such as credit cards and jewelry, at home.
- When it’s time for your procedure, you’ll need to remove your hearing aid(s), dentures, prosthetic device(s), wig, and religious articles.

What to bring

- ☐ A list of all the medications you take at home, including patches and creams.
- ☐ Your rescue inhaler (such as albuterol for asthma), if you have one, or any other medications for breathing.
- ☐ Your cell phone and charger.
- ☐ Only the money you may want for small purchases, such as a newspaper.
- ☐ A case for your personal items, if you have one. This includes glasses or contacts, hearing aid(s), dentures, prosthetic device(s), wig, or religious articles.
- ☐ Your Health Care Proxy form and other advance directives, if you have filled them out.
- ☐ Your breathing device for sleep apnea (such as your CPAP machine), if you use one. If you can’t bring it, we will give you one to use while you’re in the hospital.
- ☐ If you have an implanted pacemaker or automatic implantable cardioverter-defibrillator (AICD), bring your wallet card with you.

Where to park

When you enter the parking lot, follow the signs for the Lower Concourse. There’s free parking by the Lower Concourse entrance and additional parking to the right of the entrance. Free valet parking is also available.

Where to go

Once you have parked, go into the building through the Lower Concourse entrance. A staff member will direct you to the surgical check-in area on the 2nd floor.

What to expect when you arrive at the hospital

Many doctors, nurses, and other staff members will ask you to state and spell your name and date of birth. This is for your safety. People with the same or similar names may be having procedures on the same day.

When it’s time to change for your procedure, you’ll get a hospital gown and nonskid socks to wear. You’ll be asked to remove your glasses or contacts, hearing aid(s), dentures, prosthetic device(s), wig, or religious articles, if you have any.

Meet with a nurse

You’ll meet with a nurse before your procedure. Tell them the dose of any medications you took after midnight (12 a.m.) and the time you took them. Make sure to include prescription and over-the-counter medications, patches, and creams.

Your nurse may place an intravenous (IV) line in one of your veins, usually in your arm or hand. If your nurse does not place the IV, your anesthesiologist will do it in the procedure room.

The IV will be used to give you anesthesia (medication to make you sleep) during your procedure. You may also get fluids through the IV before your procedure.

Meet with an anesthesiologist

You will also meet with an anesthesiologist (A-nes-THEE-zee-AH-loh-jist). An anesthesiologist is a doctor with special training in anesthesia. They will give you anesthesia during your procedure. They will also:

- Review your medical history with you.
- Ask if you’ve had any problems with anesthesia in the past. This includes nausea (feeling like you’re going to throw up) or pain.
- Talk with you about your comfort and safety during your procedure.
- Talk with you about the kind of anesthesia you’ll get.
- Answer questions you have about anesthesia.

Meet with your doctor

You'll talk with your doctor before your procedure. They will explain the procedure and answer your questions.

What to expect during your pulmonary procedure

When it's time for your procedure, you'll go into the procedure room and be helped onto an exam table. Your healthcare provider will set up equipment to monitor your heart rate, breathing, and blood pressure. You'll also get oxygen through a thin tube that rests below your nose.

Once you're comfortable, the anesthesiologist will give you anesthesia through your IV line and you'll fall asleep.

What to expect after your pulmonary procedure

In the post-anesthesia care unit (PACU)

When you wake up after your procedure, you'll be in the Post-Anesthesia Care Unit (PACU).

A nurse will keep track of your body temperature, pulse, blood pressure, and oxygen levels. You may also have a chest X-ray to make sure your lung was not damaged. This type of injury is rare.

Your doctor will talk with you and the person taking you home about how your procedure went. If they feel you must stay overnight for more care, you'll be taken to a local hospital that's an MSK partner.

If you stopped taking any medications before your procedure, ask your doctor when you can start taking them again.

Before you leave, your nurse will explain your discharge instructions to you and the person taking you home.

Contact information

If you have any questions or concerns, call the healthcare provider who did your procedure. You can reach them Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. If you don’t know their phone number, call 212-639-LUNG (212-639-5864).

After 5 p.m., during the weekend, and on holidays, call 212-639-2000. Ask for the fellow on call (covering) for the Pulmonary Service.

For more resources, visit www.mskcc.org/pe to search our virtual library.

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