



## How to Prepare for Your Surgery

Patient Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Surgeon: \_\_\_\_\_

Procedure: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Surgery: \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\*\*Failure to follow these directions may result in cancellation of your surgery\*\*\***

**Due to ongoing precautions regarding the Covid-19 Pandemic, you will be required to self-isolate at home for 14 days prior to your surgical procedure**

### The Night Before Surgery

- Follow any dietary instructions given by your surgeon for the days leading up to your surgery
- You may have clear fluids up until \_\_\_\_\_ before your surgery
  - Clear fluid options: black tea, black coffee, apple juice, water, gingerale, Gatorade (NOT orange juice)
- DO NOT eat solid food or have candy after midnight
- DO NOT add milk, cream or powder to your black coffee or tea
- DO NOT drink alcohol
- DO NOT smoke for 24hrs before surgery
- DO NOT smoke marijuana for at least 48hrs before surgery

### The Morning of Surgery

- Continue prescription medications unless your surgeon/anesthesiologist/Family Doctor has asked you to stop
- Shower or bathe and brush your teeth
- DO NOT shave the operative area
- Wear comfortable, loose fitting clothing
  - Cataract patients: wear a short-sleeved, button-up shirt
- DO NOT wear perfume, makeup, aftershave, cologne, deodorant or nail polish
- REMOVE all jewelry and piercings prior to coming to the hospital
- DO NOT bring valuables to the hospital
- Bring your valid health card and have it readily available when you check in
- Bring your completed Patient Worksheet

**YOU MUST HAVE A RESPONSIBLE ADULT TO DRIVE YOU HOME AND STAY WITH YOU FOR 24HRS AFTER SURGERY**

### Visitor Policy

**Due to Covid-19 pandemic, STEGH has implemented restrictions on visiting in order to protect our patients and staff.**

**ADULT Patients- 1 person as a caregiver, interpreter. PEDIATRIC, C-SECTION- one parent for children under 18 and 1 support person for C-sections**

### **Pre-Admission Appointment Required:**

☐ **yes** ☐ **no**

If required, you will receive this appointment from your surgeon when your surgery is booked. Please bring your ***medications in their original containers, a list of your medications***, your Health Card and paperwork from your surgeon to this appointment.

☐ In person at STEGH  
☐ Telephone appointment  
Date and Time: \_\_\_\_\_

**Failure to keep your Pre-Admission Appointment may lead to cancellation of your surgery.**

If you need to rebook/cancel your Pre-Admission appointment, call 519-631-2030 ex. 3131 as soon as possible. Booking hours are: Monday-Friday from 07:30am to 3:30pm

### **Cumulative Patient Profile Required:**

☐ **yes** ☐ **no**

If "yes" is checked above, you will need to call your primary care provider's office to request that a copy of your CPP is faxed to the hospital prior to surgery (fax to 519-631-5325) or brought with you to your Pre-Admission appointment (if you have one) or on the day of surgery.

You may need to contact your primary care provider to get recommendations about which medications to take prior to surgery, unless otherwise instructed by your surgeon or anesthesiologist.

### Additional Appointments

Internal Medicine Consultation ☐ yes ☐ no  
Date and Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Anesthesia Consultation ☐ yes ☐ no  
Date and Time: \_\_\_\_\_

### Confirmation of Arrival Time

You will be notified by the hospital of your arrival time around 72 hours before your scheduled surgery.  
Please do not call in. Thank you.

### Packing for Your Hospital Stay

#### One Day Stay

**If you are having your procedure done and leaving hospital on the same day, you need to bring:**

- Current medications in their original containers
- Information package from your Preadmission appointment
- Eyeglasses or contact lens case

#### Same Day Admission

**If you are staying overnight after your procedure, bring everything listed above AND:**

- Toiletry items (toothbrush/paste, deodorant)
- Non-slip footwear
- Sleep apnea machine and equipment
- Walking devices (walker, cane)

### What to Expect After your Surgery

If you are going home the same day as your surgery, you will be discharged from the Outpatient Surgery Department. The side effects of anesthesia may last for some time after you are awake and ready to go home. You **MUST** have a pre-arranged responsible adult to drive you home and stay with you for 24hrs after surgery

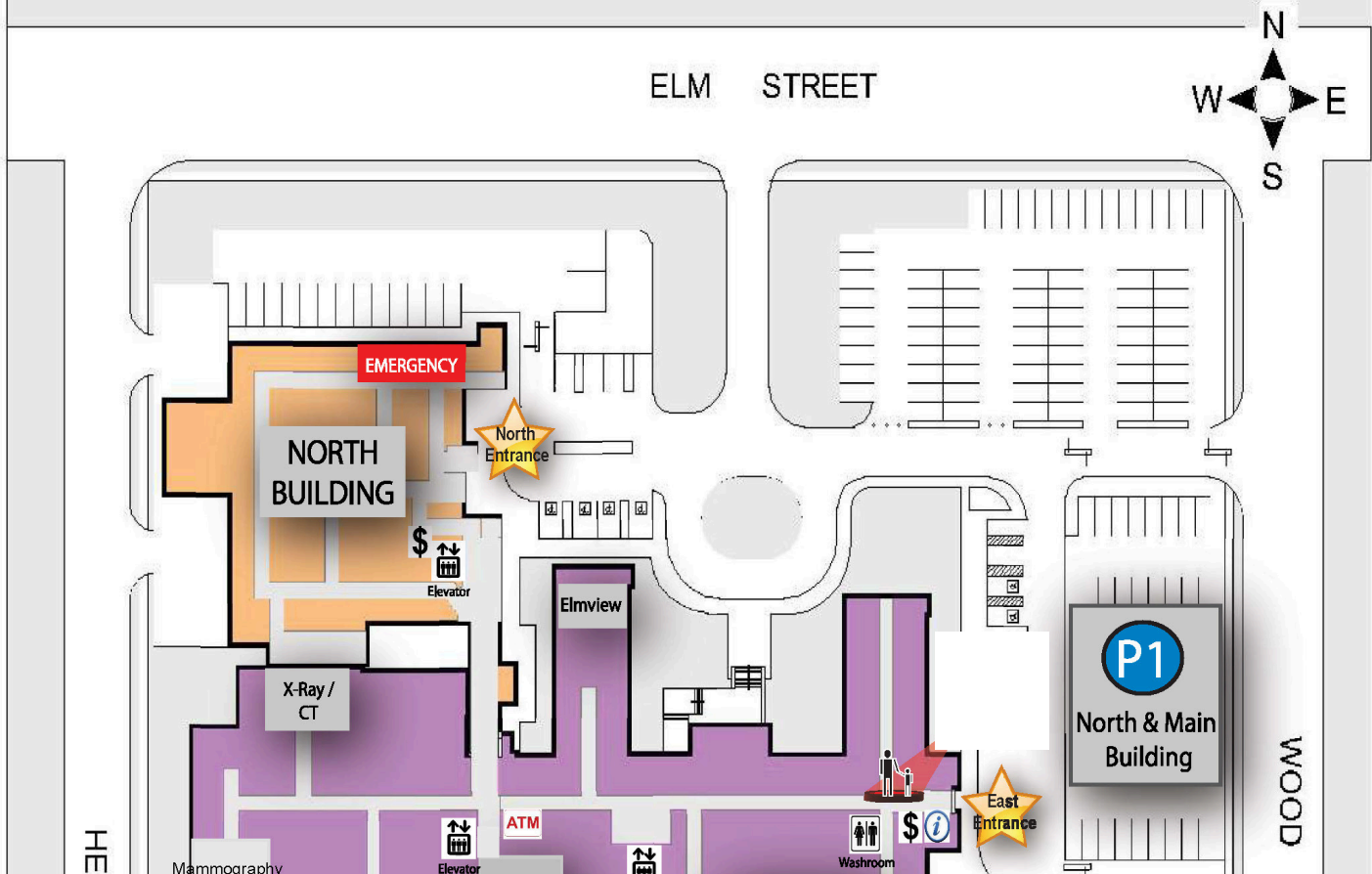
For the next 24hrs, you:

- Should not drive or operate heavy equipment
- May have muscle stiffness, dizziness, sleepiness or feel lightheaded
- Should not smoke or drink alcohol
- May have a sore throat for up to 48hrs
- Should not make important decisions or sign legal papers

**You will be given special instructions about how to care for yourself after you go home**

**STEGH is a scent-free facility. Please ensure that anyone who will visit you in hospital is aware of this.**

NOT TO BE RETAINED AS PART OF THE ST. THOMAS ELGIN GENERAL HOSPITAL HEALTH RECORD



### Adult and Paediatric Pre-Admission Patients

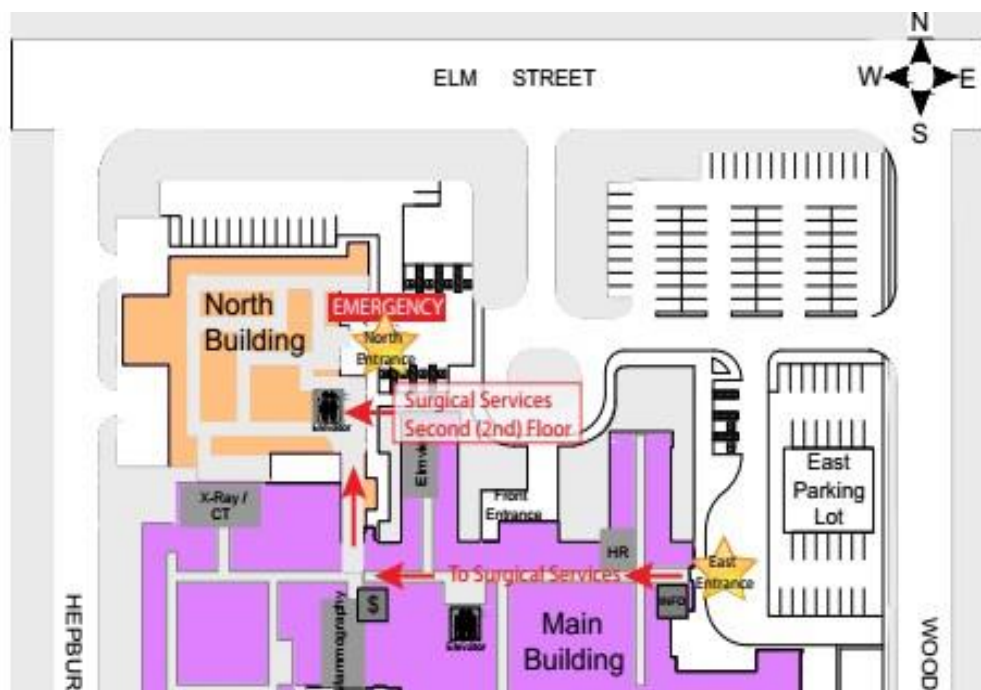
1. Park in the South lot (P2); access from Wood Street.
2. Enter through South Entrance.
3. Register at South Entrance REGISTRATION.
4. Make your way to the Pre-Admit Clinic, South Building, Ambulatory Care.



# Adult & Paediatric Day of Surgery Parking & Check In Direction

## Adult and Paediatric Patients Arrival on the Day of Surgery

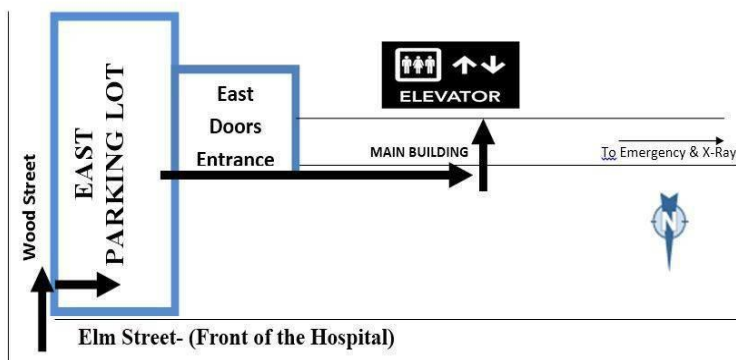
1. Please park in the East Parking lot accessible from Elm or Wood Street.
2. Enter the North Building on the Ground Floor (under red Emergency sign, use the double sliding doors to the left).
3. Use the elevator to 2nd Floor.
4. Check in with staff in the Surgical Reception Office directly in front of you as you exit the elevator.

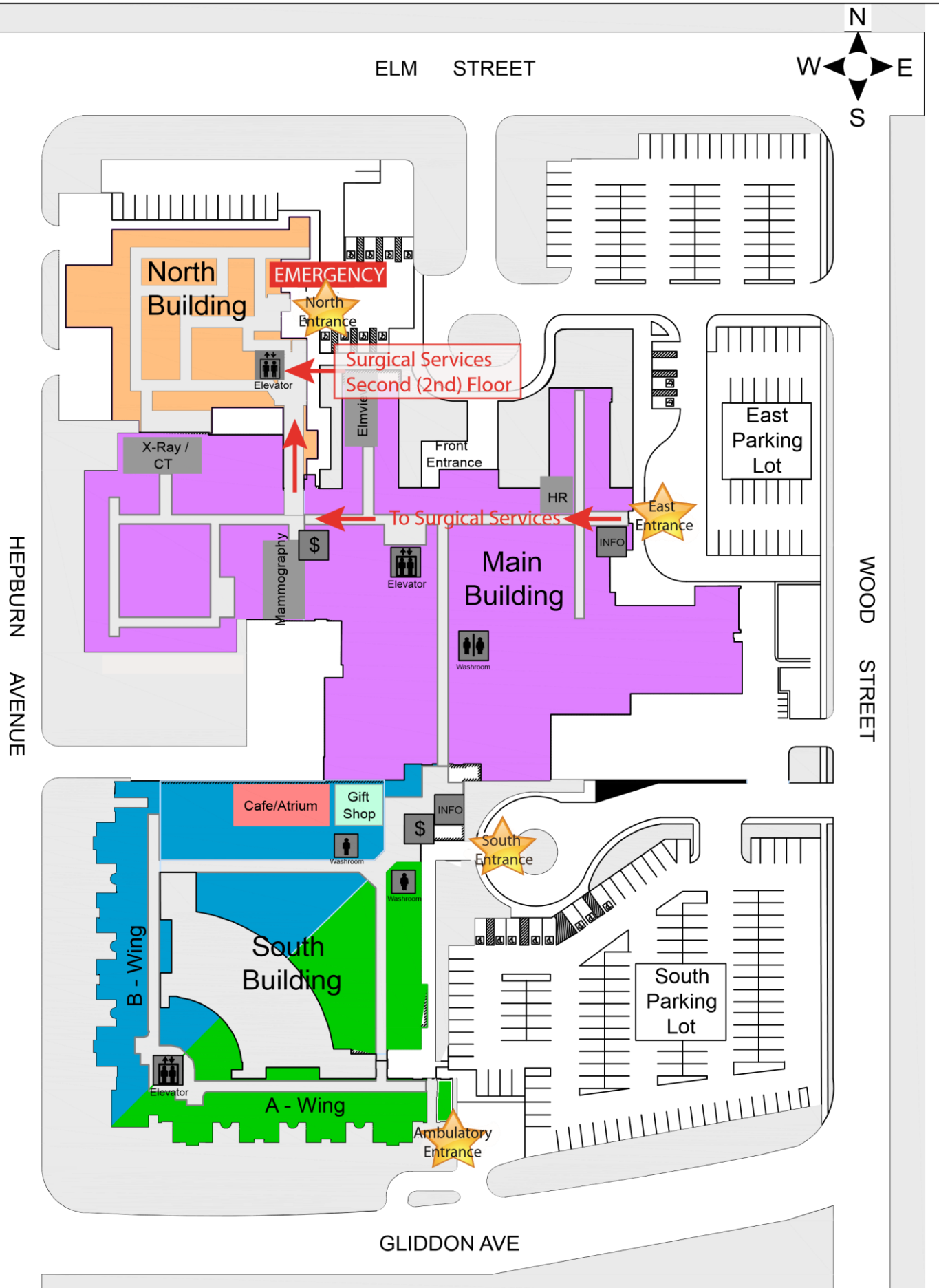


## Obstetrical C-Section Patients

### Instructions for Pre-Admission Appointment and the Day of Surgery

1. Please park in the East Parking lot accessible from Wood Street.
2. Enter the "East Door Entrance".
3. Continue straight down the corridor to the elevators on the left hand side.
4. Take elevator to 3rd Floor.
5. Report to the Nurses Station on the Woman & Children's Unit - directly across from the elevators.





## PRE-ANESTHETIC PATIENT QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of person completing this form: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to the patient: \_\_\_\_\_

Place Patient Label Here

**Patient or designate MUST complete this form prior to the appointment.** Please bring this **completed worksheet** along with a recent medication list, including your prescription(s) and all over the counter medications (ie. vitamins, supplements, herbals, etc.).

### A. General

Y N

- Have you ever had anesthesia? ☐ Spinal/Epidural ☐ General ☐ Sedation

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------

- List all past surgeries:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

- Have you or a relative had any problems with anesthesia, such as malignant hyperthermia or difficulty with insertion of the breathing tube?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------

- Do you smoke?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------

○ Number of cigarettes per day: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of years: \_\_\_\_\_

- If you ever smoked, when did you quit? \_\_\_\_\_

- How many alcoholic drinks do you have per week? \_\_\_\_\_

- Do you consume marijuana?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------

○ Amount: \_\_\_\_\_ How often: \_\_\_\_\_

- Have you used any other recreational drugs in the past 72 hours?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------

- Have you taken cortisone, prednisone, or other steroids in the last 3 months?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------

- Have you ever been treated for cancer?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------

○ Type: \_\_\_\_\_ When: \_\_\_\_\_

- Could you be pregnant?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------

- Do you have capped, chipped or loose teeth, partial or full dentures, or veneers?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------

- Do you have mouth piercings?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------

### B. Respiratory

Y N

- Have you had a cold, flu, or chest infection in the last month?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------

- Do you have a cough with sputum?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------

- Have you ever been diagnosed with : ☐ asthma ☐ tuberculosis ☐ emphysema ☐ COPD

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------

- Do you use home oxygen?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------

- Do you have sleep apnea?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------

○ Do you use ☐ C-PAP or ☐ Bi-Pap?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------

### C. Cardiovascular

Y N

- Have you ever been diagnosed with hypertension or take blood pressure medication?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------

- Have you ever had: ☐ angina ☐ heart attack ☐ cardiac surgery ☐ carotid surgery

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------

- Do you have an irregular heart beat?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------

- Do you have a: ☐ pacemaker ☐ defibrillator

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------

○ When was the last time it was checked? \_\_\_\_\_

- Have you ever had an ultrasound of your heart? (ECHO)

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------

- Do you have a heart murmur?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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- Have you ever had heart failure/fluid on your lungs?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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- Can you walk two blocks without stopping?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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- Do you have problems with circulation in the legs (peripheral vascular disease)?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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<b>D. Gastrointestinal</b>		Y	N																																	
• Have you ever had liver problems such as hepatitis, cirrhosis, or jaundice?		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>																																	
• Do you have frequent heartburn, acid reflux, or hiatus hernia?		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>																																	
<b>E. Renal</b>		Y	N																																	
• Have you ever had kidney disease?		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>																																	
<b>F. Endocrine</b>		Y	N																																	
• Do you take any semaglutide? (i.e Ozempic, Wegovy, Rybelsus or other)		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>																																	
• Do you have diabetes?		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>																																	
○ How is your diabetes managed? <input type="checkbox"/> Diet <input type="checkbox"/> Oral medication <input type="checkbox"/> Insulin		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>																																	
• Do you have thyroid disease?		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>																																	
<b>G. Neurological/Musculoskeletal</b>		Y	N																																	
• Have you ever had a seizure?		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>																																	
• Have you ever had a stroke or TIA?		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>																																	
• Do you have a neurological or a muscular disorder?		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>																																	
• Do you have arthritis? <input type="checkbox"/> osteoarthritis <input type="checkbox"/> rheumatoid arthritis		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>																																	
• Have you ever been treated for a psychiatric illness?		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>																																	
• Are you taking: <input type="checkbox"/> Methadone <input type="checkbox"/> Opioids <input type="checkbox"/> Buprenorphine?		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>																																	
<b>H. Hematological</b>		Y	N																																	
• Have you ever been diagnosed with a bleeding disorder?		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>																																	
• Are you anemic?		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>																																	
• Have you ever had a blood clot in your legs or lungs?		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>																																	
• Do you have <input type="checkbox"/> thalassemia <input type="checkbox"/> sickle cell disease		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>																																	
• Have you taken a blood thinner in the last month?		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>																																	
• Will you accept a blood product transfusion if necessary?		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>																																	
<b>I. Allergies and Medications</b>		Y	N																																	
• Are you allergic to Latex?		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>																																	
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p>• List all allergies:</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> </div> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p>• Type of reaction:</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> </div> </div> <p>• List all medications (include over the counter, patches, drops, vitamins, supplements):</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 55%;">Medication name</th> <th style="width: 20%;">Dose</th> <th style="width: 25%;">How often</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>_____</td><td>_____</td><td>_____</td></tr> <tr><td>_____</td><td>_____</td><td>_____</td></tr> <tr><td>_____</td><td>_____</td><td>_____</td></tr> <tr><td>_____</td><td>_____</td><td>_____</td></tr> <tr><td>_____</td><td>_____</td><td>_____</td></tr> <tr><td>_____</td><td>_____</td><td>_____</td></tr> <tr><td>_____</td><td>_____</td><td>_____</td></tr> <tr><td>_____</td><td>_____</td><td>_____</td></tr> <tr><td>_____</td><td>_____</td><td>_____</td></tr> <tr><td>_____</td><td>_____</td><td>_____</td></tr> </tbody> </table>				Medication name	Dose	How often	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Medication name	Dose	How often																																		
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Clinical Use Only:    BP:    /    HR:    RR:    O2 Sat:    Temp:																																				

## CONSENT TO TREATMENT

### SECTION A: Consent for Surgical Operation, Procedure or Diagnostic Test

I, \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_  
Full Name of Patient Substitute Decision Maker (SDM)

the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_  
Relationship of Patient Name of Patient

have had the nature of the proposed treatment explained to me along with the expected benefits of that treatment/investigation. I have been advised of the risks and side effects of the proposed treatment/investigation as well as other treatment/investigation available to me. I have been informed of the likely consequences of not proceeding with the proposed treatment/investigation and any alternative procedures considered necessary. I have had the opportunity to ask questions about the proposed treatment/investigation and have had my questions answered to my satisfaction. I understand the information provided to me and give consent to the following treatment/investigation:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Surgical Operation, Procedure, or Diagnostic Test

to be performed by \_\_\_\_\_ and his/her team.  
Full Name of Healthcare Practitioner Proposing Treatment

I understand that any tissues/organs removed during care may be retained and used for the purposes of diagnostic examination, education or research and will be disposed of by the hospital based on standards governing the disposal of such material.

### SECTION B: Transfusion of Blood and/or Blood Products

☐ Not Applicable

I have been given information on the transfusion of blood and/or blood products and had an opportunity to discuss available alternatives, risks and benefits.

Initials

\_\_\_\_\_ I **consent** to the transfusion of blood and/or blood products if required.

\_\_\_\_\_ I **refuse** the transfusion of blood and/or blood products.

\_\_\_\_\_ I **consent with restrictions** to the transfusion of blood and/or blood products. Complete **SECTION F**.

### SECTION C: Signature of Patient/SDM (Section A, B, and C)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date YYYY/MM/DD

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Patient/SDM

### SECTION D: Statement of Healthcare Practitioner

I, \_\_\_\_\_ am the healthcare practitioner proposing and/or  
Full Name of Healthcare Practitioner Proposing Treatment

performing the treatment noted above. I have explained the nature of the treatment, the expected benefits, risks and side effects, alternative courses of treatment and the likely consequences of not proceeding with the proposed treatment to the patient/SDM. I have answered the questions of the patient/SDM to the best of my ability. To the best of my knowledge, the patient/SDM is giving his or her informed consent to the proposed treatment voluntarily.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date YYYY/MM/DD

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Healthcare Practitioner



## CONSENT TO TREATMENT

### SECTION E: Telephone Consent

I am the healthcare practitioner proposing the operation, treatment or procedure. I have spoken by telephone with \_\_\_\_\_, as that person is not available to attend at the hospital to sign the written

Name of SDM

consent form. I have obtained an informed consent over the telephone for the operation, treatment, procedure or diagnostic test known as:

Treatment

and have requested that the SDM attend at the hospital as soon as possible to sign the written consent form.

Date and Time of Telephone Call:

Date YYYY/MM/DD

Signature of Healthcare Practitioner

### SECTION F: Consent with Restrictions to Transfusion of Blood and/or Blood Products

I, \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_  
Full Name of Patient Substitute Decision Maker (SDM)

the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_  
Relationship of Patient Name of Patient

understand that I may require transfusion of blood and/or blood products during my medical/surgical treatment. I have had the nature of the proposed transfusion explained to me along with expected benefits. I have been advised of the risks and side effects of the proposed blood/blood product transfusion as well as alternative courses of treatment available to me. I have been informed that the consequences and risks, including death, of not proceeding with the proposed transfusion. I have had the opportunity to ask questions about the proposed transfusion and have had my questions answered to my satisfaction. I understand the information shared with me.

Refer to page 3 for description of Blood/Blood Products

BLOOD/BLOOD PRODUCTS		
Red Cells	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept	<input type="checkbox"/> Refuse
Plasma	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept	<input type="checkbox"/> Refuse
Platelets	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept	<input type="checkbox"/> Refuse
Albumin	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept	<input type="checkbox"/> Refuse
Immune Globulins	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept	<input type="checkbox"/> Refuse
Blood-derived clotting factors	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept	<input type="checkbox"/> Refuse
Medicines which include minute amounts of albumin in their formulation	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept	<input type="checkbox"/> Refuse

I refuse the transfusion of all blood and/or blood products. I hereby release St. Thomas Elgin General Hospital (STEGH), its directors, officers, employees, independent health practitioners, including physicians with privileges at STEGH, from all liability related to negative outcomes, complications or unfavourable results, including death, that occur because of my refusal of the use of blood and/or blood products.

Date YYYY/MM/DD

Signature of Patient/SDM

## CONSENT TO TREATMENT

### DESCRIPTION OF BLOOD PRODUCTS

Blood is donated by healthy volunteer donors at the Canadian Blood Services (CBS). Donors are tested for ABO group, Rh type and unexpected antibodies against red cell antigens. ABO, Rh and, if present antibody identity, are indicated on the component label. Prior to making blood components available for transfusion, a sample of each donor's blood must test non-reactive for:

- antibodies to human immunodeficiency virus (HIV-1 and HIV-2), hepatitis C virus (HCV), human T-cell lymphotropic virus, type I and II (HTLV-I/II), hepatitis B core antigen (HBcore),
- hepatitis B surface antigen (HBsAg),
- presence of viral RNA [HIV-1 and HCV],
- presence of viral DNA [hepatitis B virus (HBV)],
- syphilis,
- In some cases, a donor sample is also tested for cytomegalovirus (CMV) antibody and/or the presence of IgA,
- A donor sample is only tested for antibodies to Trypanosoma cruzi (T. cruzi or Chagas Disease) and the presence of viral RNA [West Nile Virus (WNV)] when increased risk is present.

#### Red Cells

Red cell concentrate (packed red cells) are prepared at the CBS from approximately 480mL whole blood collected in 70mL of CPD (citrate, phosphate, dextrose) anticoagulant. The unit is plasma reduced by centrifugation, platelet reduced by either centrifugation or filtration and leukoreduced by filtration. Red blood cells are resuspended in approximately 110mL of SAGM (saline, adenine, glucose, mannitol) nutrient for a hematocrit of approximately 60%.

#### Plasma

Plasma is collected from donors either as part of whole blood collection or by apheresis. Plasma products are frozen by CBS and remain frozen until required. Plasma may ACD-A (acid citrate dextrose – Solution A) anticoagulant or CPD (citrate, phosphate, dextrose) anticoagulant.

#### Platelets

Platelets are collected from donors either as part of the whole blood collection or by apheresis. Pooled platelets are derived from 7 donors and pooled to make 1 adult dose. Platelets are leukoreduced by either filtration or by apheresis. Platelets may contain CPD (citrate, phosphate, dextrose) anticoagulant or PAS-E (Platelet Additive Solution E) and may be treated with Psoralen. Platelets undergo pathogen inactivation treatment to inactivate a broad range of pathogens including viruses, bacteria, and protozoan parasites, thus reducing the risk of transfusion-transmitted infections. Residual donor leukocytes are also inactivated, reducing the risk of transfusion associated with graft vs host disease.

#### Albumin

Albumin (25% and 5%) used for transfusion is made from human pooled plasma using a fractionation process to isolate the albumin portion of the plasma. Each vial is heat treated to reduce the possibility of transmission of some viruses, including HIV and the hepatitis viruses.

#### Immune Globulins

Immune globulin is a concentrated solution of antibodies made from large pools of human plasma using a combination of fractionation, precipitation, filtration and anion-exchange chromatography. Processing also includes viral inactivation steps. There are general immune globulins such as intravenous, subcutaneous and intramuscular immune globulin as well as specific preparations including Rh immune globulin, hepatitis immune globulin, varicella-zoster immune globulin.

#### Blood-derived clotting factors

This includes but is not limited to: Prothrombin Complex Concentrates (eg Octaplex, Beriplex), Humate-Pm FEIBA, Anti-Thrombin III, as well as C1 Esterase Inhibitor and Fibrinogen (eg. RiaStap, Fibryga). These products are made from large pools of human plasma and include concentration steps as well as viral inactivation steps in the manufacturing process. Most Factor VIII and IX products are recombinant clotting factors and do not use albumin as a stabilizer. DDAVP is a synthetic analog of human desmopressin. It does not contain albumin.

#### Medicines which include minute amounts of blood in their formation

Albumin may be used in the formulation of other medicines. It would be important to notify Pharmacy if patient refuses all medicines that contain albumin.

## Opioid Pain Medicines

# Information for Patients and Families

You have been prescribed an opioid pain medicine that is also known as a narcotic. This leaflet reviews some important safety information about opioids.

Patients, family, friends, and caregivers can play an important role in the safe use of these medicines; share this information with them.

With opioids, there is a fine balance between effective pain control and dangerous side effects.



Opioids are intended to improve your pain enough so that you are able to do your day to day activities, but not reduce your pain to zero. Be sure that you understand your plan for pain control and work closely with your doctor if you need opioids for more than 1-2 weeks.

### Risk of overdose and addiction:

Many people have used opioids without problems. However, serious problems, including overdose and addiction, have happened. It is important to follow the instruction on the prescription and **use the lowest possible dose for the shortest possible time**, and to be aware of signs that you are getting too much opioid.

Avoid alcohol and benzodiazepines.

### Side effects:

Constipation, nausea, dry mouth, itchiness, sweating, and dizziness can happen often with opioids. Contact your doctor or pharmacist if your side effects are hard to manage.

Your ability to drive or operate machinery may be impaired.

Some people are more sensitive to the side effects of opioids and may need a lower starting dose or more careful monitoring. Talk to your doctor about the **HIGHER RISK** of dangerous side effects if:

- You have certain health conditions, for example:
  - Sleep apnea
  - Lung disease (e.g. COPD or asthma)
  - Kidney or liver problems
- You have never taken opioids before
- You are already taking an opioid or medications for anxiety or to help you sleep
- You have a history of problems with alcohol or other substances
- You have had a bad reaction to an opioid before
- You are age 65 or older

### Safe keeping:

Never share your opioid medicine with anyone else. Store it securely in your home. Take any unused opioids back to your pharmacy for safe disposal.

### Ask your Pharmacist if you have any questions.

Other options are available to treat pain.

### Signs of Overdose

**Stop taking the drug and get immediate medical help if you experience the following:**

- Severe dizziness
- Inability to stay awake
- Hallucinations
- Heavy or unusual snoring
- Slow breathing rate

**Your family member or caregiver needs to call 911 if:**

- You can't speak clearly when you wake up
- They can't wake you up
- Your lips or fingernails are blue or purple
- You are making unusual heavy snoring, gasping, gurgling or snorting sounds while sleeping
- You are not breathing or have no heartbeat

**Never leave a person alone if you are worried about them.**

**Ask about take-home naloxone kits.**

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Institute for Safe Medication Practices Canada  
Institut pour la sécurité des médicaments aux patients du Canada