



Liver Transplant

PRE-OPERATIVE DAY

DAY: _____ DATE: _____

THINGS TO EXPECT TODAY

- You will be admitted to the 14West Transplant Intensive Care Unit (ICU).
- Information related to your medical and surgical history, including all medications you are currently taking, will be obtained.
- You will have blood drawn for a variety of routine tests including a pregnancy test for women.
- You will have a chest X-ray and EKG taken.
- You may have a special type of intravenous catheter (IV) placed in an artery in your wrist and a vein in your neck. These will be used to monitor your heart, lungs, and blood pressure.
- You will be able to eat a regular dinner. You will not be able to eat or drink anything after midnight.
- An anesthesiologist will interview you to determine your plan of care for surgery.
- Your nurse will review what to expect after surgery which will include a pain management program.



DAY 0 (DAY OF SURGERY)

DAY: _____ **DATE:** _____

PRE-OPERATIVE

THINGS TO EXPECT TODAY

- You will not be able to eat or drink anything before surgery.
- Before you go to the Operating Room, you will be given an antibiotic and an oral medication to prevent rejection of the liver.
- You will be sent to the Operating Room accompanied by the physician or nurse practitioner with various intravenous catheters (IV's).
- You will be in the Operating Room for several hours.

POST-OPERATIVE

THINGS TO EXPECT TODAY

- You will wake up from your surgery in the Transplant ICU, where your nurses will closely monitor your condition.
- When you wake up, you will have a breathing tube in place which will prevent you from being able to speak. This tube will be connected to a ventilator which assists you in breathing. The nurse in the Transplant ICU will be able to communicate with you even though you cannot speak at first, as she has plenty of practice similarly to how the dentist can understand what you are saying while all the instruments are in your mouth. When you are awake enough, and if tests show that you are able to breath on your own, this tube will be removed.
- If you have pain, notify your nurse immediately.
- You will have various tubes, catheters, and IV's as explained above. You can expect that they will be removed over the next few days. The team will keep you informed as to when each tube, catheter, and IV will be removed.
- You will have a Sequential Compression Devise (SCD) or anti-embolism elastic stockings on your legs to prevent inflammation (phlebitis) and the formation of blood clots (thrombus) in your legs.
- You will have blood drawn for a variety of routine tests and Chest X-rays taken.
- You will have your blood sugar checked every 4 hours.



DAY 1

DAY: _____ **DATE:** _____

THINGS TO EXPECT TODAY

- You will still be in the Transplant ICU, where your nurses will closely monitor your condition.
- You will still have a breathing tube in place which will prevent you from being able to speak. This tube will be connected to a ventilator which assists you in breathing. When you are awake enough, and if tests show that you are able to breath on your own, this tube will be removed.
- If you have pain, notify your nurse immediately.
- You will have various tubes, catheters, and IV's as explained above. You can expect that they will be removed over the next few days. The team will keep you informed as to when each tube, catheter, and IV will be removed.
- You will have blood drawn for a variety of routine tests and Chest X-rays taken.
- You will have your blood sugar checked every 4 hours.
- You will have the dressing that covers your incision changed.
- You will be helped out of bed to the chair.
- Your nurse will “clap” on your back frequently and will encourage you to cough, take deep breaths and use the incentive spirometer. An incentive spirometer is a plastic piece of equipment that helps you take deep breaths. Every patient receives their own incentive spirometer.
- You will have an ultrasound of your new liver.
- You will be given a Post Transplant information guide booklet.
- A Social Worker will meet with you, your family, and/or your significant other to assess discharge follow-up needs.
- A Nutritionist will meet with you, your family, and/or your significant other to assess your nutritional status and needs.
- You will have sequential compression device boots or antiembolism stockings on your legs.



MORNING

- Sit up in bed. After the breathing tube is removed, you will be encouraged to stay awake and do the coughing and deep breathing exercises that your nurse will demonstrate.
- Use your incentive spirometer at least ten times each hour that you are awake. How high did you get the incentive spirometer this time? _____
- Your nurse will help you put on your or anti-embolism elastic stockings.
- Ask your nurse about your pain management program.
- The nursing staff will be available to answer all your questions and concerns.

AFTERNOON.

- You will be able to have sips of clear liquids if the tube in your nose has been removed.
- Use your incentive spirometer at least ten times each hour that you are awake.
- Do the coughing and deep breathing exercises after you use the incentive spirometer.
- If you are experiencing pain, notify your nurse immediately.
- The nursing staff will be available to answer all your questions and concerns.

EVENING/NIGHT

- After the breathing tube is removed and the ultrasound is completed you will be assisted to the chair.
- If you are experiencing pain, notify your nurse immediately.
- Use your incentive spirometer at least ten times each hour that you are awake. How high did you get the incentive spirometer this time?_____ Follow this with coughing and deep breathing exercises.
- You may have clear liquids for dinner.
- You will be weighed. It is expected that you may gain 10 lbs of fluid and for your extremities to be swollen.
- Your anti-embolism stockings will be removed before you go to sleep. If you are wearing SCD boots, make sure they are on before you go to sleep.
- The nursing staff will be available to answer all your questions and concerns.

GREAT JOB! HAVE A GOOD NIGHTS SLEEP!

NOTE: If you do not have a thermometer and blood pressure machine, arrange to have one brought to the hospital for you if it is possible.

**DAY 2**

DAY: _____ DATE: _____

THINGS TO EXPECT TODAY

- You will still be in the ICU where the nurses will continue to closely monitor you.
- You will still have various tubes, catheters and IV's. You can expect that some of them may be removed today.
- You will have blood drawn for a variety of routine tests and Chest X-rays taken.
- You will have the dressing that covers your incision changed.
- You will be helped out of bed to the chair.
- You may be visited by a Chest Therapist who will help you with deep breathing and coughing exercises. Your nurse will continue to help with this also.
- Your nurse will encourage you to stay out of bed for longer periods of time. This is an important part of your recovery.
- The doctor will change the IV line in your neck.
- If you have pain, notify your nurse immediately.
- You will have anti-embolism elastic stockings on your legs while you are awake/out of bed. If you have SCD boots, they will be removed while you are out of bed.
- The Social Worker may meet with you, your family, and/or your significant other to continue planning for your discharge. Ask your nurse to contact the Social Worker.

THINGS TO DO TODAY

Begin to review your teaching packet. Read the section on **Medications** so you can start to learn about them.

MORNING

- You will be assisted to sit in the chair. Your nurse will show you how to do “marching in place” exercises. If you are experiencing pain, notify your nurse.
- It is important that we know when your normal bowel activity has returned. Let your nurse know if your belly begins to rumble, grumble or if you expel gas.



- You may be able to have clear liquids. Even if you are not hungry, try to eat. It is important for your recovery.
- Use your incentive spirometer at least ten times each hour that you are awake. How high did you get the incentive spirometer this time?_____
- Continue to do your breathing exercises (coughing and deep breathing) and turn side to side while in bed every 2 hours as these activities are a very important part of your recovery.
- Read the section in your packet on **MEDICATIONS**. Ask your nurse for the names of the medications you are taking. Ask her to help you write them down if necessary.
- The nursing staff will be available to answer all your questions and concerns.

AFTERNOON

- You will be assisted to sit in the chair. If you have pain, tell your nurse.
- Use your incentive spirometer at least ten times each hour while you are awake.
- While you are out of bed, perform the “marching in place exercises” your nurse taught you to do.
- Begin to increase your physical activity as directed by your nurse. Try to walk around the unit with your nurse’s help.
- Do you know when you will be discharged?
- The nursing staff will be available to answer all your questions and concerns.

EVENING/NIGHT

- You will be assisted to sit in the chair.
- Use your incentive spirometer at least ten times each hour while you are awake. How high did you get the incentive spirometer this time?_____
- You will be weighed this evening.
- Continue to learn about your medication. Do you know the names and how often you should take them?
- If a family member or significant other will be caring for you after your discharge, make sure they read the discharge packet.
- The nursing staff will be available to answer all your questions and concerns.
- If you are wearing SCD boots make sure they are on before you go to bed. If you are wearing antiembolism stockings make sure they are off before you go to bed.

GREAT JOB! HAVE A GOOD NIGHTS SLEEP!



DAY 3

DAY: _____ **DATE:** _____

THINGS TO EXPECT TODAY

- You will have morning and evening blood tests done.
- You will have your blood sugar checked every 4 hours.
- The dressing that covers your incision will be changed.
- Your nurse will encourage you to stay out of bed for longer periods of time. This is an important part of your recovery. Continue to walk around the unit. If you need assistance, ask the nursing staff.
- You will have anti-embolism elastic stockings on your legs while you are awake/out of bed.
- If you are having pain, notify your nurse.
- You are expected to review your medications and discharge teaching packet.
- You will be instructed by the nurse on how to take your own temperature and blood pressure.
- Your Social Worker will continue to discuss with you, your family and/or your significant other any follow-up care needs. Please feel free to address any new issues that may arise.
- A Nutritionist will meet with you, your family, and/or your significant other to assess your nutritional status and needs if this has not already happened.

THINGS TO DO TODAY

Review the information in your Discharge Packet on medications. A Pharmacist is available to answer questions about medications. Your nurse will ask you questions about them. Read the information on the immune system and rejection.

MORNING

- Sit in the chair and you will be assisted to wash up. If you are experiencing pain, notify your nurse.
- Eat breakfast - regular food today!
- Use your incentive spirometer at least ten times per hour while you are awake. How high did you get the incentive spirometer this time? _____
- Continue to do your breathing exercises (coughing and deep breathing) and turn side to side every 2 hours while in bed as these activities are a very important part of your recovery!



- Walk with help outside the unit in the hall. If you need assistance, please ask the nursing staff. Can you walk farther than you did yesterday?
- Read the section in the discharge packet on the **IMMUNE SYSTEM** and **REJECTION**.
- The nursing staff will be available to answer all your questions and concerns.

AFTERNOON

- Sit in the chair when you eat lunch. The longer you are out of bed, the better. It helps improve your lungs and circulation. If you are having pain, notify your nurse.
- Use your incentive spirometer at least ten times every hour while you are awake.
- Take another walk in the hallway with family, friends, or a member of the nursing staff.
- The nursing staff will continue with your discharge teaching.
- Your nurse will quiz you on your anti-rejection medications. Can you name your anti-rejection medications?
- Reread the information on rejection. What are the signs and symptoms of rejection?
- The nursing staff will be available to answer all your questions and concerns.

EVENING/NIGHT

- Sit in the chair and eat dinner. If you are having pain, notify your nurse.
- Make sure you, your family members, and/or significant other speak to the nurse regarding your dietary restrictions. It is very important that you eat enough calories and protein so that your wounds are able to heal.
- You will be weighed this evening.
- Walk in the hallway with assistance. How far did you go today? _____
- Continue to use incentive spirometer ten times each hour. Follow with coughing and deep breathing.
- Review your discharge booklet. What questions do you have on your medications? Write down your questions so you will remember to ask someone to answer them.
- If you are wearing anti-embolism elastic stockings, make sure they are off before you go to bed. If you are wearing SCD boots make sure they are on before you go to bed.
- The nursing staff will be available to answer all your questions and concerns.

GEAT JOB! HAVE A GOOD NIGHTS SLEEP!



DAY 4

DAY: _____ **DATE:** _____

THINGS TO EXPECT TODAY

- You will still have morning and evening blood tests done.
- You will have your blood sugar checked every 4 hours.
- You may be moved to a regular room today.
- The nutritionist will see you.
- If your blood sugar remains high after the transplant, your nurse will speak to you about the steps involved with glucose testing and insulin administration. The Diabetes Education Nurse will be notified for continued teaching.
- The nurse will review how to take your temperature and blood pressure.
- You will be planning for discharge with the Social Worker, the Transplant Coordinator and your nurses. All discharge concerns/problems should be addressed at this time.
- The Social Worker will continue discharge planning.

THINGS TO DO TODAY

Read the section in your discharge packet on **INFECTION**. Take your blood pressure and your temperature with your nurse’s supervision.

MORNING

- Wash-up and sit up out of bed. If you are having pain, notify your nurse.
- Ask your doctors if you are going home three days from today.
- Sit in the chair to eat your breakfast.
- Use your incentive spirometer ten times every hour while you are awake. How high did you get the incentive spirometer? _____
- Continue to do coughing and deep breathing exercises.
- Take a walk. Try to increase your activity.
- Continue to review your discharge booklet. Review the section on infection
- Save your urine in the container provided to you by the nursing staff so that it can be measured.
- The nursing staff will be making hourly rounds. If you need something please ask.

**AFTERNOON**

- Sit in the chair to eat lunch. The better you eat, the better you heal. If you are having pain, notify your nurse.
- Use your incentive spirometer ten times every hour.
- Walk accompanied by someone (e.g. your family or friends) around the hallway or out to the solarium for a change of scenery.
- List the names of your anti-infection medications. If you would like to speak with a Pharmacist about your medications, please let your nurse know.
- What are the signs and symptoms of an infection? If your temperature is 101°, what should you do?
- Continue thinking about your needs at home after you are discharged. Talk with your nurse, social worker or transplant coordinator about these concerns.
- The nursing staff will be making hourly rounds. If you need something please ask.

EVENING/NIGHTS

- Continue to use your incentive spirometer ten times every hour.
- You will be weighed this evening.
- Walk around the hallway.
- Sit in the chair to eat dinner. If you are having pain, notify your nurse.
- Speak with your Social Worker about arranging transportation home on your day of discharge.
- If you are wearing anti-embolism elastic stockings, make sure they are removed before going to bed.
- Practice taking your blood pressure and temperature
- The nursing staff will be making rounds. If you need something please ask.

GREAT JOB! HAVE A GOOD NIGHTS SLEEP!



DAY 5

DAY: _____ **DATE:** _____

THINGS TO EXPECT TODAY

- Morning and evening bloods will be drawn.
- You will have your blood sugar checked every 4 hours.
- You will be going for a test called a T-Tube Cholangiogram. This test looks at the bile flow in your new liver.
- After the Cholangiogram, the doctor may clamp your T-Tube.
- You may be able to shower with assistance after your T-Tube is clamped. Ask your doctor.
- If you haven't already, you may meet with a Nutritionist to discuss your diet.
- If needed, your nurse will reinforce diabetes teaching.
- Discharge planning will continue.

THINGS TO DO TODAY

Make sure you know the names, doses and side effects of your medications.

MORNING

- Ask your nurse if you can take a shower. If not, you will continue to wash up in the bathroom. If you are having pain, notify your nurse.
- Make sure your anti-embolism elastic stockings are on your legs if your nurse feels they are needed.
- Sit in the chair and have some breakfast. The longer you are out of bed, the better for your recovery.
- Use your incentive spirometer ten times every hour.
- Take a walk around the hallway. See if you can go farther than you did yesterday.
- Continue to plan for going home. Write down any questions you or your family have.
- You should be able to identify the names, dose, purpose and side effects of all of your medications. Do you have any questions about them? If you do, speak with your nurse or pharmacist.
- If you need instruction for diabetes, make sure that you speak with the Diabetes Educator.
- The nursing staff will be making hourly rounds. If you need something please ask.



AFTERNOON

- Review your discharge booklet. Ask questions!
- Sit in the chair and have some lunch -- the better you eat, the better you heal.
- Use your incentive spirometer ten times every hour.
- Continue to walk in the hallway. Try to go farther than you did this morning.
- Do you know the signs and symptoms of rejection? If you don't, reread that section in your packet
- Your nurse will show you how to take your blood pressure and temperature so you feel comfortable doing it when you get home. Do you know when you should call the Transplant Team?
- The nursing staff will be making hourly rounds. If you need something please ask.

EVENING/NIGHTS

- Sit in the chair and have some dinner.
- You will be weighed this evening.
- Use the incentive spirometer ten times per hour.
- Don't forget the evening walk in the hallway. No matter how tired you may feel, the walk will help your recovery.
- Write down any questions you have for the doctor or nurse.
- Did you complete your Medic Alert form?
- If you are wearing anti-embolism elastic stockings, make sure you take them off before you go to bed.
- The nursing staff will be making hourly rounds. If you need something please ask.

GREAT JOB! HAVE A GOOD NIGHTS SLEEP!



DAY 6

DAY: _____ **DATE:** _____

THINGS TO EXPECT TODAY

- **Blood tests will be done in the morning.**
- **Continue walking in the hallway.**
- **If needed, diabetes teaching will be reinforced.**
- **Continue to discuss discharge concerns and problems with your nurse, social worker and transplant coordinator.**
- **Speak with your Transplant Coordinator about getting your medications for discharge.**
- **If you haven't already, you may meet with a Nutritionist to discuss your diet.**

THINGS TO DO TODAY

MORNING

- Sit in the chair and have your breakfast. The longer you are out of bed, the better for your recovery. If you are having pain, notify your nurse.
- Use your incentive spirometer ten times every hour.
- You should be able to:
 - identify names, doses, purposes and side effects of medications
 - identify signs and symptoms of rejection and what to do if they occur
 - take your blood pressure and temperature and identify when to call the Transplant Team
- Review your discharge booklet. Ask questions!
- Ask your nurse if you can shower if you haven't already. If not, you will continue to wash up in the bathroom.
- The nursing staff will be making hourly rounds. If you need something please ask.

AFTERNOON

- Sit in the chair and have lunch. The better you eat, the better you heal. If you are having pain, notify your nurse.
- If possible, have most of your belongings brought home for you.
- Use your incentive spirometer ten times every hour.



- Do you understand the medications that you will be taking at home?
- Confirm transportation home. Plan for an early morning discharge.
- The nursing staff will be making hourly rounds. If you need something please ask.

EVENING/NIGHTS

- Sit in the chair and have dinner.
- Use your incentive spirometer ten times every hour.
- You will be weighed this evening.
- Go for a walk in the hallway -- keep moving!
- Review discharge instructions. Ask any remaining questions.
- If you are wearing anti-embolism stockings, make sure they are off before you go to bed.
- The nursing staff will be making evening rounds. If you need something, please ask.

Sleep well!

DAY 7

DAY: _____ **DATE:** _____

THINGS TO EXPECT TODAY

- **Morning blood test will be done.**
- **Continue to gradually increase your activity level.**
- **Continue with your incentive spirometer.**
- **Your IV will be discontinued.**
- **Your Social Worker will review referrals and discharge plan and follow-up with you, your family, and/or your significant other.**
- **You will be discharged.**

THINGS TO DO TODAY

MORNING

- Shower or wash up. If you are having pain, notify your nurse.
- Sit in the chair and have breakfast.
- Your medications, blood pressure cuff, and thermometer will be brought to you by the Nurse Practitioner.



- The Nurse Practitioner and your nurse will review your medications as well as how to obtain your blood pressure and your temperature with you. Ask any final questions.
- Review the discharge plan with your nurse and sign it. Ask any final questions.
- Make sure you have a supply of your medications for home.
- Find out when you need to return for a follow-up visit.
- Make sure you have an updated medication schedule. Be sure you have the number of your home care agency.
- Make sure you know when to get any needed medications and who to call in case of emergency.
- Be discharged from the hospital after your doctors discuss your blood test results with you.
- After discharge from the hospital, please do not contact the 14 West floor with questions or concerns regarding your care. They will not be able to assist you in your needs. **For any questions or concerns regarding your care after discharge from the hospital, call the transplant clinic at 212-263-8134.**

GET HOME SAFE!