



AXILLARY NODE DISSECTION

DAY OF SURGERY

Day:_____ **Date:**_____

THINGS TO EXPECT TODAY

- You will be transferred from the Recovery Room to a room on one of the surgical units.
- The nurse will monitor your vital signs (blood pressure, pulse, respirations and temperature), and check the dressing over your incision.
- You will have a tube draining fluid from the incision site. The nurse will check the drain frequently, empty and measure the amount of fluid. The nurse will show you how to empty the drain.
- Your affected arm will be elevated to decrease swelling.
- Your nurse will review information about arm care or leg care with you.
- You will receive pain medication, IV fluids and IV antibiotics.

Things To Do Today

Review the guidelines in the information packet on **While in the Hospital and Going Home**.

- Once you are awake, you will be allowed clear liquids. If you can tolerate them, your usual diet will be resumed.
- You will be helped to get out of bed. When in bed, keep the affected arm elevated.
- Pain medication will be prescribed. Ask your nurse if you need it. You will be asked to rate your pain before and after taking pain medication so the staff can make sure you are comfortable.
- You will probably go home tomorrow. Confirm transportation home. If you have any questions about discharge, ask to speak to a social worker.
- The nursing staff will be making rounds. If you need anything, please ask.

DAY AFTER SURGERY

Day: _____ **Date:** _____

THINGS TO EXPECT

- You will receive your pain medication and antibiotics, if prescribed, in pill form.
- Your surgeon will see you to review discharge instructions before you go home. Find out when you need to return to the office for your follow up visit.
- You will receive any needed prescriptions.

Things To Do Today

- Review the Going Home and Arm Care section in your information packet. Do you know for what signs and symptoms you need to call the doctor?
- You can eat your usual diet.
- Ask your nurse if you can shower.
- You can resume your usual activities. Make sure that you keep your affected limb elevated.
- If you are going home with a drain, empty it while your nurse is present. This will make you more comfortable doing it when you go home.
- Review and sign the discharge plan. Ask any remaining questions.

HAVE A SAFE TRIP HOME!