

Questions?

Your questions are important. Call your doctor or health care provider if you have questions or concerns. UWMC clinic staff are also available to help at any time—

Pre-Anesthesia Clinic

206-598-6334

Monday - Friday,
7:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

- Write down your questions or concerns and be sure to bring them up when you meet with your doctor.
- Bathe or shower before surgery. Wash your hair. Remove nail polish (from fingers and toes). Do not wear makeup. Your skin and nails show signs of blood circulation.
- Leave your valuables at home.

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON
MEDICAL CENTER
UW Medicine

Pre-Anesthesia Clinic

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Surgical Site Marking

Safe, high-quality care from UWMC



This brochure explains how your surgery or procedure site will be marked when you are a patient at University of Washington Medical Center (UWMC). The brochure also offers tips to help you prepare for surgery and to make sure you have the correct procedure done on the correct body part.

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON
MEDICAL CENTER
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Your Team, Your Care

When you have surgery or a procedure at UWMC you will meet many staff who are involved with your care. Our teamwork is just one reason UWMC is rated among the top 10 best hospitals in the country.

When You Have Surgery or a Procedure

We commit to making sure you receive high-quality and safe care. While you are here, you or your family will be asked such questions as:

- What is your name?
- What is your date of birth?
- What surgery are you having done?

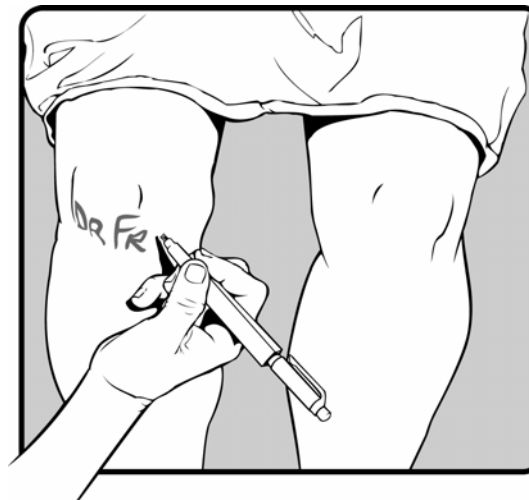
Do not be alarmed by these questions. We know who you are. We ask some or all of these questions over and over again to be sure we have everything right.

Site Marking

Your doctor will check your medical record and talk to you or a family member to confirm your surgery or procedure site.

Most times when you have surgery or a procedure, your doctor will mark the site in pen to help ensure your safety.

When your site does need to be marked, your surgeon will mark the site with his or her initials. Special care is taken if you are having surgery or a procedure in the right or left side of your body.



Surgeon writing his or her initials on the patient's surgery site.

When your site does not need to be marked, which is the case for some types of surgery, you will be asked to confirm what surgery or procedure you are having.

Tips to Ensure Your Safety

- Rest assured that the entire UWMC team follows the new surgical site marking guidelines (also called a protocol) outlined by the organization that accredits hospitals.
- Check with your doctor to find out if there are medications, supplements, and/or herbal preparations – prescription and/or over-the-counter – that you should stop taking or avoid before surgery.
- Ask about what you may or may not drink before surgery.