



**MIDJERSEY**  
**ORTHOPAEDICS**  
*LIVE LIFE BETTER.*

## The Patient Floor

In order to make your stay as comfortable as possible, there are a few things about which the patient floor nurses want you to be aware.

Please do not bring any valuables with you (for example jewelry or money). They feel your valuables will be safest at home or with someone you trust.

Do not bring extra clothes. The floor supplies you with a gown, slippers, and toiletries.

There is a TV and a telephone for every bed and a bathroom in every room.

Although you are not permitted to eat or drink anything after midnight before surgery, please drink a lot of fluids prior to midnight.

Upon arriving on the patient floor from admitting, the following will occur (perhaps in a different order)...

A registered nurse will “admit” you. This means that he or she will discuss with you the reason you are here for surgery. The nurse will do a physical assessment and take a verbal medical/surgical history. Any allergies you have should be mentioned. Discharge planning and social needs will also be discussed briefly at this time.

A “prep” will be done of the surgical area. This includes washing the area with an antiseptic soap and shaving the area if needed.

One of the doctors from the Anesthesia Department may visit you and discuss your planned surgery.

You will receive a diet sheet for your selection of menus during your stay.

You may receive what we call an “incentive spirometer”. This is sometimes used after your surgery. You exhale into it and a ball rises in a plastic tube. This is very important because it helps you take deep breaths after anesthesia.

When the operating room calls and is ready for you, you will be asked to go to the bathroom.

You may be given an injection before leaving the floor. This injection might make you feel drowsy and may dry out your mouth. This is to be expected, so don’t be concerned if that occurs.

A person from the operating room will come and put you on a stretcher. He or she will check your identification bracelet, and then he or she will make sure that you are comfortable and secure for the ride to the operating room.

You will arrive in the holding area of the operating room. This is an area where you can be seen at all times. You will be greeted by a variety of people (the operating room nurses, anesthesia department personnel and your surgeon). You will probably need to answer some of the same questions for different people—please don’t get frustrated; this is all for your safe care. You will be asked at what time you last ate or drank anything; if you have any allergies and if you have loose teeth or dentures. An IV will be started. This is a needle that goes into your veins. Shortly thereafter, you will be brought into the operating room, and your surgery will begin.