Patient Guide Cardiac, Vascular and Thoracic Surgery



Before Your Surgery



MortonPlant.org



This book contains information about cardiac surgical procedures and is designed to help you feel comfortable and able to take an active role in your recovery. We have highlighted some recommendations for pursuing a hearthealthy lifestyle, so that you can reduce the risk of future heart problems. Also included are a few logistical details, including parking, transportation and hotel recommendations. We recommend you bring this guide with you when you come to the hospital for your heart surgery. We urge you and your family to address any questions about your health or your heart procedure with our doctors, nurses and other professional staff. Our team is eager to address your concerns and help ensure that you have a positive experience at Morgan Heart Hospital.

This book has been prepared for informational purposes only. It should not be considered a substitute for medical advice.

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General Information

Your Morgan Heart Team

At Morgan Heart Hospital, your cardiologist and your surgeon are supported by a strong and talented team. Select team members will be with you throughout your hospitalization to help you prepare for the procedure and to assist with your recovery.

Physician Assistants and Nurse Practitioners

Physician Assistants (PA) and Nurse Practitioners (NP) play an integral role in caring for cardiothoracic surgery patients. Both physician assistants and nurse practitioners assist in the evaluation and preparation of patients before surgery, caring for patients following surgery, and helping prepare patients for discharge. The PA also has a role in the operating room.

Nurses

Morgan Heart nurses will coordinate your activities while at the hospital and will take charge of your personal care, pain management and discharge planning.

Physical Therapists

Our physical therapists will develop an exercise program specifically designed to meet your medical needs and requirements.

Social Workers

Social workers will help you plan your release from the hospital. They will also communicate with your family and friends. During these discussions, social workers identify the support that your relatives and friends can provide during your recovery period, and educate them (and you!) on the community resources available to help you until you regain your complete independence. These professionals will also help you understand your insurance benefits.

Occupational Therapists

Our occupational therapists will help you regain self-care skills and adapt to activities after surgery, so you can be as independent and safe as possible. Our goal is to ensure that you are equipped to successfully continue your recovery upon discharge.

Mended Hearts Support Group

We are very fortunate to have volunteers available to offer help, support and encouragement to our heart surgery patients and their families. Mended Hearts, Inc., is a support group of people who have experienced heart disease and/or open heart surgery. Their insight can be very helpful and reassuring when dealing with your illness.

A member of Mended Hearts will visit you in the hospital and the group will be available at any time to assist you through your recovery. You may also call on them before your surgery to gain insight on what to expect down the road.

Mended Hearts can also provide support during your recovery. They can help you:

- Adjust emotionally to your heart disease diagnosis
- Learn how to live a heart-healthy lifestyle
- Stay current on research and treatments for cardiovascular disease

You may contact Mended Hearts directly by calling (888) 432-7899.





On the Big Day

Surgical Time and Admission Information

A Morgan Heart team member will call you between 1pm and 6pm on the day before your surgery to reiterate the information given to you at your preop session, including your time of arrival and where you will check in. If no one has called you by 6pm the evening before your surgery, please contact us at (727) 462-7010.

Parking and Check-in

Please park in the main parking lot and enter through the hospital's main entrance. Doors do not open until 5am. Upon arrival the day of surgery, proceed directly upstairs on the Witt elevators to the third floor of Morgan Heart Hospital. A receptionist will greet you there and check you in.

Transportation

Van transportation is available from West Pasco and Pinellas Counties and for surgical patients who have no other transportation to Morgan Heart Hospital. Certain restrictions apply. If you need help with transportation for the day of your surgery, please call (727) 461-8548 as soon as possible to make arrangements.

Morgan Heart Hospital Tour and Preoperative Tests

Surgical patients may attend a personal education session prior to having surgery. This education session will be arranged at the time of your preoperative testing. Anyone interested in touring the hospital may schedule one at (727) 461-8355.

Accommodations

Please see separate accommodations information in the back of this folder.



Meet Your Heart

The Normal Heart

Understanding how the heart works will help you understand how coronary artery disease affects your body. The heart is made up of muscle and is hollow inside. With each heartbeat, blood is pumped to all parts of the body. Blood travels from your heart to your body through blood vessels called arteries. Blood that is being pumped from the heart first goes through the lungs to pick up oxygen needed by the body.

There are four chambers in the heart. The two upper atrium chambers collect blood that is returning to the heart from the body. These upper chambers send blood to the two lower ventricle chambers to be pumped out into the body. Like the body, the heart itself needs a steady supply of blood and oxygen. The heart's blood supply comes from coronary arteries, blood vessels that lie on the surface of the heart. Coronary arteries branch off the aorta, the large blood vessel that carries blood from the heart to the body. As long as these arteries stay healthy and unclogged, the heart gets the blood and oxygen it needs.

Heart Problems

Arteries are normally elastic. As we age, our arteries harden and lose some of their ability to expand. In addition, fatty deposits known as plaque can build up along artery walls. This build-up can be caused or worsened by



smoking, high blood pressure, a high-fat diet, high blood cholesterol, being overweight, a lack of exercise and other factors, including genetics.

The hardening and narrowing of arteries is called atherosclerosis and can occur anywhere in the body. When it occurs in the coronary arteries, it is called coronary artery disease. Because the coronary arteries are so small, they can become blocked more easily than larger arteries.

During the early stages of coronary artery disease, the body exhibits very few symptoms. However, as the disease progresses, it can cause a short, temporary lack of blood and oxygen in the heart called angina that may include the following symptoms:

- Pressure, tightness or heaviness in the chest, arms, neck or shoulders
- Indigestion or a feeling of fullness
- Shortness of breath
- Burning or aching in the throat, jaw or chest
- Numbness or tingling

Angina can occur when the heart is pumping harder than usual, either during or after physical activity, being outside in cold weather, eating a large meal, or experiencing an exciting or stressful event.

Angina symptoms can last from five to 10 minutes. A heart attack is a more prolonged lack of blood and oxygen to the heart, with symptoms often lasting for 20 minutes or longer, resulting in damage to the heart.

Changes in angina may mean that immediate treatment is needed. Contact your doctor immediately if angina comes on more quickly, lasts longer or occurs more often than usual.

Role of Nitroglycerin

Nitroglycerin is often prescribed for people who have angina because it opens up blood vessels so more blood can get to the heart. It can be taken as a tablet or sprayed under the tongue.

If you have angina, sit or lie down and take one dose and wait five minutes. If your angina is not relieved, take a second dose and wait five minutes. If your angina is still not relieved, take a third dose.

If your angina is not relieved after three tablets or sprays, call 911 immediately to be taken to the nearest emergency room. Do not wait! Quick treatment can reduce damage to your heart and may save your life.

Symptoms of a Heart Attack

A heart attack occurs when a blocked coronary artery has caused damage to a part of the heart. Causes of a heart attack include coronary artery disease, a blood clot or a spasm in the coronary artery (usually due to unknown causes).

Many of the early warning signs of a heart attack are the same as angina, but they last longer and do not go away with doses of nitroglycerin.

Symptoms of a heart attack include:

- Heavy pressure, tightness or burning in the chest, back, arms, neck or shoulders
- Indigestion or a feeling of fullness
- Shortness of breath
- Sweating
- Weakness, dizziness or fainting
- Rapid or irregular heartbeat
- Pale or grey-looking skin
- Vague feeling of uneasiness

If you have any of these symptoms that are not relieved within a few minutes with rest and nitroglycerin (if available), call 911 to be taken to the nearest emergency room immediately. Do not wait! Quick treatment can reduce damage to your heart and may save your life.

Treatments for Heart Disease

Cardiac patients can live longer and more productive lives than ever before, thanks to the specialized care and innovative surgical treatments offered at Morton Plant's Morgan Heart Hospital.

Morgan Heart Hospital combines minimally invasive catheter-based procedures with open-heart surgeries and new surgical procedures including off-pump coronary artery bypass surgery and biventricular pacing, which can reduce symptoms of congestive heart disease or heart failure in some patients.

The result is a comprehensive cardiac care program that can address the individual needs of each of our cardiac patients.

Catheterization Procedures

Cardiac Catherization involves passing a thin, flexible tube (catheter) into the right or left side of the heart, usually from the groin or the arm. Morgan Heart Hospital offers the following catheter-based procedures:

Angioplasty: Also referred to as ballooning, angioplasty is a procedure to open narrowed or blocked blood vessels that supply blood to your legs.

These arteries can become blocked with fatty material that builds up inside them. This is called atherosclerosis. A stent is a small, metal mesh tube that keeps the artery open. Angioplast and stent placement are two ways to open blocked peripheral arteries.

- Balloon valvuloplasty: A balloon at the tip of the catheter is inflated to stretch the valve open and improve valve functionality/blood flow.
- Catheter ablation for cardiac arrhythmias: Cardiac ablation is a procedure that is used to destroy small areas in your heart that may be causing your heart rhythm problems. During the procedure, small wires called electrodes are placed inside your heart to measure your heart's electrical activity. These electrodes may also be used to destroy the bad areas of your heart.
- Corotid stenting: You have an artery on each side of your neck called the carotid artery. This artery brings needed blood to your brain and face.

The blood flow in this artery can become partly or totally blocked by fatty material called plaque. A partial blockage is called carotid artery stenosis (narrowing). A blockage in your carotid artery can reduce the blood supply to your brain. A stroke can occur if your brain does not get enough blood. There are two invasive ways to treat a carotid artery that is narrowed or blocked. One is surgery called endarterectomy. The other is a procedure called carotid angioplasty with stent placement. Carotid angioplasty and stenting (CAS) is done through a much smaller incision, by pushing instruments into your arteries: Your surgeon will make a surgical cut in your groin after using some numbing medicine.

You will also be given medicine to relax you.Your surgeon will insert a catheter (a flexible tube) through the cut into an artery. The doctor will carefully guide the catheter up to your neck to the blockage in your carotid artery.Your surgeon will use live X-ray pictures to see your artery. This kind of X-ray is called fluoroscopy.

Next, your surgeon will pass a guide wire through the catheter to the blockage. Another catheter with a very small balloon on the end will be pushed over the guide wire and into the blockage. Then the balloon will be blown up. The balloon presses against the inside wall of your artery. This opens the artery and restores proper blood flow to your brain. A stent (a wire mesh tube) may also be placed in the blocked area. The stent is inserted at the same time as the balloon catheter. It expands when the balloon is blown up. The stent is left in place to help keep the artery open. The surgeon then removes the balloon.

Surgical Procedures

Surgical procedures are used to bypass one or more blocked arteries, repair or replace damaged heart valves, correct defects in the heart, and maintain and correct irregular heartbeats. For coronary artery bypass and valve procedures, the surgeon opens the chest and divides the breastbone, while in a few other cases the surgical procedure can be performed through incisions. Your surgeon will determine which procedure and method of entry is most appropriate for your condition and overall health. Morgan Heart Hospital's surgical procedures include:

- Atrial septal defect and patent foramen ovale: An atrial septal defect (ASD) is a congenital defect in which the wall that separates the two upper heart chambers does not completely close. A catheter is inserted into a vein, guided into the heart and used to place a small patch into the opening.
- Aortic Aneurysm Repair (AAA): Endovascular abdominal aortic aneurysm repair is surgery to fix a widened part (or aneurysm) in your aorta, the large artery that carries blood to your belly, pelvis and legs. Unlike standard surgery, in which a surgical cut is made in the abdomen, endovascular aortic repair is done without any surgical cut.

- Arrhythmia surgery (Maze procedure): The Maze treatment for atrial fibrillation (AFIB) is an open chest surgical procedure for treating AFIB by altering electrical pathways in the heart and restoring the upper chambers of the heart to a more normal size.
- Biventricular pacing (cardiac resynchronization therapy): Biventricular pacing is a new procedure that is performed during pacemaker or ICD implant that improves the left ventricle's ability to fully pump blood from the heart.
- Cardiac valve repair and replacement: A heart valve repair can be performed on a valve that is too narrow to allow sufficient blood flow or on a valve that cannot close tightly enough to prevent backflow of blood. A heart valve replacement is performed when a diseased valve that cannot be repaired is removed and replaced with a substitute mechanical or biological (tissue) valve, such as a stentless valve.
- Stentless valves: These recently developed aortic valves are constructed from animal valves. They do not have the metal and plastic support structure that is present in standard valves. The absence of this support structure allows the insertion of a larger valve that may enable better blood flow and longevity.
- Coronary Artery Bypass (CABG) on-pump: This surgery is performed with the assistance of a heart-lung machine that allows the heart's beating to be stopped. The surgery involves using a section of vein or artery to bypass a part of the diseased coronary artery. This creates a new route for blood to flow through, so that the heart muscle will get the oxygen-rich blood it needs to work properly.

Coronary Artery Bypass Surgery (CABG)—off-pump: In off-pump bypass surgery (also called Beating Heart Surgery), the heart is not stopped. Instead technological advances and new kinds of operating equipment now allow the surgeon to stabilize portions of the heart during surgery so that the surgeon can bypass the blocked artery. Meanwhile, the rest of the heart keeps pumping and circulating blood to the body.

■ Implantable Cardioverter Defibrillators (ICDs): An implantable cardioverterdefibrillator (ICD) is a device that detects any life-threatening, rapid heartbeat. If such a heartbeat, called an arrhythmia, occurs, the ICD quickly sends an electrical shock to the heart to change the rhythm back to normal. This is called defibrillation.

Pacemaker implantation and exchange: A pacemaker is a small, battery-operated device that senses when your heart is beating irregularly or too slowly. It sends a signal to your heart that makes your heart beat at the correct pace.

Transmyocardial Laser Revascularization (TMR): This procedure can relieve severe angina or chest pain in very ill patients who aren't candidates for bypass surgery or angioplasty. A surgeon makes an incision on the left breast to expose the heart. Then, using a laser, the surgeon drills a series of very small holes from the outside of the heart into the heart's pumping chamber. Bleeding from the laser channels on the outside of the heart stops after a few minutes of pressure. In some patients, TMR is combined with bypass surgery.

Transcatheter Aortic Valve Replacement (TAVR)

Transcatheter aortic valve replacement (TAVR) is an alternative to traditional open-heart surgery for individuals who may otherwise not be candidates for aortic valve replacement. During the procedure, a catheter is advanced to the aortic valve, either through the femoral artery or through a small chest incision and through the left ventricle. Once the catheter is in place, a tissue valve with metal stent scaffolding is positioned and deployed. X-ray guidance provides indirect visualization.

Thoracic Endovascular Aneurysm Repair (TEVAR)

TEVAR is a minimally invasive treatment for patients with abdominal or thoracic aneurysms. Also known as endovascular grafting, TEVAR is performed inside the patient's aorta using catheters and stents under fluoroscopic imaging, avoiding the traditional method of opening a patient's chest to repair the aneurysm. It is imperative that patients with aortic disease seek treatment promptly; as time progresses, aneurysms can enlarge and the risk of rupture increases. In addition to aneurysms, TEVAR can be employed to treat other aortic pathologies, such as dissections and ulcers.

Other surgical procedures

In addition to the heart procedures previously described, there are several other procedures that are performed at Morgan Heart Hospital. For further information about these vascular procedures, please see the separate procedure description guide.



Getting Ready for Heart Surgery

Important Information about Your Hospital Bill

Please contact Patient Accounts to make financial arrangements.

You may choose one of the following:

- Prior to your date of service, contact a financial counselor to assist with an estimated cost to you of your hospital stay. Co-pays, coinsurance and deductibles are due at time of service. To contact a financial counselor, please call (727) 462-7169.
- From any hospital telephone, you can call extension 27197, and we will explain everything over the telephone. Or, if you prefer, a financial counselor can visit your room.
- Send a family member or friend to Patient Financial Services on your behalf. The office is located on the ground floor of the hospital.
- Stop by Patient Financial Services just prior to your discharge.

You may choose from any of the following payment methods:

- Cash
- Personal checks
- Credit cards (American Express, Discover, MasterCard and Visa)
- Monthly payment arrangements are available through MEDMAX Credit.

Visit MedMaxCredit.com or call (727) 533-5200 for additional information.

Health Care Directives: Living Will

A health care directive clarifies your wishes and gives a person of your choice the power to act on your behalf during any medical emergency you may suffer. These documents are used to ensure that your wishes are followed even if you are no longer able to communicate them yourself.

A health care directive goes into effect when:

- You are in a coma or near death
- You cannot communicate your wishes through speech, in writing or by gestures

If you don't yet have a living will, you may request one when you are being admitted to the hospital. Just ask an admissions representative for a living will form.

Since the medical team must know of your medical directives in order to enforce them, **please bring a copy of your living will to the hospital with you.** It will become part of your records.

Blood Transfusion Choices

Although your surgeon will try to keep blood loss to a minimum, you may need a transfusion during your surgery. **Most patients accept donated blood and do not need to make further preparations for a possible transfusion**. All donors are carefully screened, and their blood is tested for diseases such as AIDS, HIV and hepatitis.

You can also donate your own blood in advance or ask family and friends with the same blood type to donate blood for your use.

- Blood from a family member or friend: This type of blood donation (sometimes called a directed donation) occurs when a family member or friend donates blood for you. Remember, any family member or friend donating must have the same blood type as you. Your friend or family member will undergo the same screening and testing as general donors do. There is no evidence that blood from directed donors is any safer than the blood available from the general blood supply.
- Using your own blood: You may be able to donate blood from two to six weeks before your surgery. Ask your heart surgeon if you are a candidate.

Anyone wishing to donate blood for your use must make an appointment by calling Florida Blood Services at any of the numbers on page 16. For more information regarding blood donation, call (800) 68-BLOOD (800-682-5663) or visit FBSBlood.org.

Donation Locations

Pinellas County-(727) 568-5433

Clearwater Office 1680-1682 S. Missouri Ave. (727) 582-9500

St. Petersburg Office 10100 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. St. N. (727) 568-5433, ext. 2112

Tyrone Office 1700 66th St. N., Suite 102 (727) 384-4145

Largo Office 11401 Belcher Road, Suite E (727) 544-5050, ext. 2583

Hillsborough County-(813) 632-5433

Tampa Office 5301 E. Fletcher Ave. (813) 903-2600

Brandon Office 727-A W. Lumsden Road (813) 661-4528

Plant City Office 1902 James L. Redman Parkway (813) 752-7638

Northdale Office 15427 N. Dale Mabry Highway (813) 964-1354

Pasco County-(727) 819-5433

Hudson Office 7214 State Road 52 (727) 819-5433, ext. 3100

Wesley Chapel Office 5319 Village Market (813) 929-6500

The Night Before Surgery

You may take all your normal medications the day and evening before your surgery. However, do not take any medications you have been told to stop by your doctor. You should not take any medications the morning of your surgery unless specifically instructed to do so by your surgeon. Usually, you are given all necessary medications by the nurse when you check in the morning of surgery.

Patients will receive instructions on showering and other preparations for surgery at a presurgery testing and teaching session.

You should not eat or drink anything after midnight on the night before surgery. This includes water, ice chips, hard candy, chewing gum and medications by mouth. You can use eye drops and inhalers. Following these instructions will help prevent any stomach contents from getting into your lungs during surgery.

Remove jewelry (this includes wedding bands), nail polish, hair clips, hearing aids and other items and leave them off until after the surgery.

The Morning of Surgery

Patients should strictly follow preparation instructions received in the pre-surgery testing and teaching session. Some important things to note are:

- Do NOT apply lotion, powder, cologne, deodorant or makeup after your shower.
- Wear comfortable clothes to the hospital.
- Only bring eyeglasses, dentures or partial plates and hearing aids to the hospital. Leave all valuables at home.
- If you have sleep apnea, bring your CPAP or BiPAP machine to the hospital.
- Do not smoke before surgery.
- Do not drink alcohol before surgery.

About an hour before surgery, you will be given medication to make you sleepy and relaxed. Once you are in the operating room, you will receive anesthetics that will put you to sleep. After you are asleep, all necessary tubes are inserted, including the breathing tube, urinary catheter and stomach drain.

Coronary artery bypass surgery and other types of heart surgery normally take from three to four hours, but can last longer in some cases.

After the Surgery

Most patients need several days of recovery at the hospital. Once you have been assigned a private room, you will not need to be moved, thanks to Morgan Heart Hospital's use of specially designed universal beds. This ensures that you will have the same nursing staff throughout your stay and eliminates moves that can be confusing to family and friends.

The rooms are also equipped with a sleeper chair, and one family member may spend the night in the patient's room; however, please note that spending the night the day of surgery is not always advisable. Please refer to the the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) visiting hour brochure for more information. The phone number to the Cardiac Surgical Unit is (727) 461-8355.

It's common to feel confused as you begin to wake up after the surgery. This feeling will go away as the anesthesia wears off. However, you may be somewhat drowsy for up to 24 hours after the procedure, which is normal.

Most heart surgeries involve the use of a heartlung machine that circulates blood throughout the patient's body while the heart or its arteries are being repaired. Due to the long operation and the effects of anesthesia, you will come out of surgery with a small tube in your windpipe to help you breathe. You will not be able to talk while this tube is in place. Try to relax and breathe with the machine. You will be able to communicate by nodding yes or no. You will have a nurse by your side to help you during this time. You will also be administered some medicine to help keep you calm.

Once you are fully awake and your lungs are ready, the tube will be taken out. Then you will be able to talk again and your hands will be untied. If you have a sore throat from the breathing tube, use throat lozenges and ice chips as needed. You will also be connected to several tubes and monitors to allow the nursing staff to monitor any changes in your condition. As you recover, all necessary tubes will usually be removed within 24 to 72 hours after surgery.

Although you may not be hungry, it's important to drink liquids and eat small amounts of food. This helps your body recover and prevents nausea from pain medications.

You will probably get out of bed to sit in a chair on the evening of your surgery. As early as the next day, you will begin taking short walks with a staff member.

Pain Management at the Hospital

You will be given pain medication to lessen or relieve pain or soreness at the incision sites. It is also very common to have pain and soreness in your shoulders and upper back (between your shoulder blades). For best results, take pain medication as soon as the pain starts to increase, and before it gets out of control. Pain medications are given on an as-needed basis, so please contact your nurse if you require pain medication.

It may also be helpful to take pain medication before you start any activity such as physical therapy, walking or sitting up in a chair. It is harder to ease the pain after it has intensified. You will be asked to rate your pain before and after a dose of pain medication, using a scale of one for very little pain to 10 for severe pain. Keeping your pain under control will help you get well faster, so please let the nurse know when you are in pain and if the pain relief wears off too quickly. Your pain medication and dose can be adjusted to meet your needs. Also let the nurse know if you have nausea, itching or difficulty with urinating or bowel movements. Addiction to pain medication is extremely rare and should not be a concern (unless you have a history of drug abuse).

Natural Ways to Reduce Pain

Slow, rhythmic breathing can be very relaxing and can lessen mild to moderate pain. Imagine you are in a place that is very calming and relaxing as you breathe slowly and deeply. Guided imagery tapes are available and help relieve anxiety and lessen pain for many patients. Doing your exercises and moving around will help a great deal to prevent stiffness and reduce pain.

Postoperative Exercises to Improve Lung Function

Use of an incentive spirometer can keep your lungs healthy and helps to prevent pneumonia. Put the mouthpiece in your mouth and inhale slowly and deeply. You can see the ball rise and remain suspended. Remove the mouthpiece and exhale completely. Repeat 10 times every one to two hours while awake. If you feel lightheaded or dizzy, stop and rest. Then resume the exercise when you are ready.

Cough periodically to clear your lungs and to get rid of any secretions. Coughing will be painful, but it is necessary and will NOT damage your stitches. Use your cough pillow to support your chest when coughing and doing your breathing exercises.

Postoperative Exercises to Prevent Blood Clots

These simple exercises can prevent blood clots in the legs, which are a risk for many surgical procedures:

- Push the toes of one foot down toward the foot of the bed and relax. Then pull the toes up toward your chin and relax. Repeat three times. Perform this exercise with the other foot.
- 2) Rotate one foot in a circular motion from the ankle. Move first to the right and then to the left. Relax. Do this three times in each direction. Then perform the exercise with the other foot.
- Bend your knee and bring it toward your chin, raising your leg above the bed. Relax. Do this three times and repeat with the other leg.

When Can I Go Home?

The average hospital stay after most heart surgeries is four to seven days. Most patients leave the hospital on the fourth or fifth day after surgery. For patients who have a TAVR or TEVAR procedure, the average stay can range from two to four days.





Community Resources

Directory

Adult Day Care

Hillsborough Senior Citizens Nutrition and Activity Program (813) 272-6261

BayCare Behavioral Health (727) 841-4200

Neighborly Care Network (727) 573-9444

Community Care

Hillsborough County Aging Services (813) 272-5242

Pasco CARES (727) 862-9291

Neighborly Care Network (727) 573-9444

Help with Chores

Pasco CARES (727) 862-9291

Neighborly Care Network (727) 573-9444

Homemaker Services

Pasco CARES (727) 862-9291

Gulf Coast Community Care (727) 538-7460

On the Internet

Access our Web site at MPMHealth.com for all your health information needs.

Important Phone Numbers

Cardiac Surgeons(727) 446-2273 If you need to report a serious complication, such as fever, increased swelling, shortness of breath or intense pain

Patient Care Leader......(727) 710-2219 Care Leader questions before or after your surgery

Nurse Manager (727) 462-3349 For any issues or concerns regarding your care

Cardiac Rehabilitation.....(727) **461-8295** For questions on how to enroll or schedule a preview visit

Florida Blood Services........ (800) 68-BLOOD To ask about hours or find the office nearest you

Finance (727) 462-7197 To make financial arrangements or ask questions about insurance coverage

Free Van Transportation...... (727) 461-8548 If you need a ride to the hospital

Hospital Information.....(727) 462-7500 For directions or general questions

Main OR Department.....(727) 462-7010 If you haven't heard from admissions by 6pm the day before your surgery

Preoperative Registration...... (727) 462-7060 As needed

Social Services(727) 462-7050 For questions about rehab centers, skilled nursing facilities and community resources

A Final Note

The staff at Morgan Heart Hospital is committed to providing each patient with high-quality, compassionate care. If you have any questions about this material, please consult your doctor or nurse.

My Medical Questions

Use this page to write down questions to ask your doctor, nurse, physical therapist or any member of your medical team.







300 Pinellas St. Clearwater, FL 33756 The success of Morgan Heart Hospital is made possible through the generosity of patients and their families, as well as members of the local community. For more information about Morton Plant Mease Foundation, call (727) 462-7036 or visit MPMFoundation.org.