

## MOHS SKIN CANCER SURGERY INFORMATION

### *PLEASE REVIEW PRIOR TO SURGERY*

1. Please plan to spend **at least 4-6 hours** at the office. As most of the time will be spent waiting while we study the tissue, it is helpful to have a book to read. You may want to bring one other person to stay with you during the wait.
2.  We request that you do not drive alone if this box is checked.

### BEFORE SURGERY

1. The night before your surgery appointment, wash the anticipated area with **chlorhexidine gluconate** antiseptic skin cleanser (Hibiclens®, etc. or other generic product). Repeat wash the next morning prior to coming for your surgery appointment. This soap should NOT come in contact with the eyes. If at some point it does come in contact, rinse immediately.
2. **If you are on doctor-prescribed aspirin, Plavix (clopidogrel) or Coumadin (warfarin), please continue to take it.**
3. The morning of surgery eat a normal breakfast. Take any medication that you normally take.
4.  If you have been given an antibiotic to take before surgery, be sure to take it as directed one hour before surgery. Failure to do so may result in cancellation of the surgery.
5. Wear a button-down shirt or blouse if the surgery is on the face or head. For surgery on legs wear pants with loose fitting legs or a skirt if possible. Wear loose comfortable shoes for surgery on the feet.
6. Do not apply cosmetics if the surgery is going to be done on your face.
7. It is helpful to have Tylenol (acetaminophen) at home prior to the date of surgery as well as bandaging supplies such as non-stick bandages (TELFLEX) and paper tape.
8. If you have taken any anti-anxiety medications before surgery you must have someone available to drive you to and from surgery.

### AFTER SURGERY

1. After your surgery, you will be given detailed instructions on how to care for the wound. The type of procedure we do will dictate what specific instructions you will need. If the surgery is on the lips or around the mouth, plan to eat soft foods for about 1 week after surgery.
2. If at all possible, try to have someone available to help you by phone or stay with you for the first 24 hours after the surgery.
3. **Avoid strenuous exercise, bending, straining, stooping, or lifting any heavy objects for the first week after surgery.** Sometimes these motions can cause bleeding from one of the stitches. Arrange your schedule in advance to avoid these activities.

### IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION

If there is any unusual swelling, pain, bleeding, drainage at the surgical site, if you have any questions, or

**IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY, call our office at 208-433-1114.**

After regular business hours, call the office number above and there will be instructions on how to reach a provider. We are always available to answer questions and to help make this procedure go smoothly for you.