



THE CARE PARTNER PROJECT™

How to Get the Care You Want
for the People You Love

Planned surgery allows time for planned conversations! Often, patients don't realize they have a choice of doctors to perform any recommended surgery. Every surgery carries risk, so taking the time to find a surgeon who is skilled and follows best practices to minimize risk is a rewarding investment of time.

A Care Partner is critical for helping loved ones find the best doctor, hospital, and date for surgery. Why? It can be an exhausting process, just when a patient is likely feeling down and worried about their health. Your caring help means the world!

Follow the suggestions on our **"How-To" Guides** to help explore surgery options and help your loved one make final decisions using these questions on this page for further conversations with doctors.

The more information you help your loved one collect, the greater peace of mind will result. And that's worth everyone's time!

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Checklists are for education only, and are not intended to substitute for medical advice, diagnosis, or treatment.

CHECKLIST

HOW TO HELP CHOOSE A SURGEON, HOSPITAL & SURGERY DATE

MINIMIZE RISKS! Help your loved one interview potential surgeons regarding the most critical concerns. Be sure to take good notes for your loved one!

- What are the potential complications with my surgery?**
 -  If infection isn't mentioned—always a risk!
- How many of these surgeries have you personally performed?**
 -  If not hundreds or thousands
- Do you use a checklist in your OR (operating room) before starting surgery?**
 -  If the answer is NO. The practice of using a checklist confirms the right patient, right procedure, and all vital medical details.
- Does the surgical team introduce themselves in the OR before starting a surgery?**
 -  If the answer is NO. Studies show that teams who know each other's names have better communication during surgery, and better results.
- When is an antibiotic given prior to surgery?**
 -  If not within 60 minutes before surgery starts.
- Do you screen for MRSA and Covid prior to surgery?**
 -  If NO for either. (Patients can ask for these tests, however.)

MORE QUESTIONS FOR SURGEONS THAT COULD BE HELPFUL TO YOUR LOVED ONE.

- Can we schedule surgery mid-week?** Are you planning a vacation or time off? surgeries mid-week means your surgeon is more likely to be available in case of complications afterward.
- How is your hospital rated for safety and quality?** (Look up at Hospital Safety Grade and Hospital Compare.)
- Who would actually perform my operation?** You alone, or will you have assistants?
- If assistants participate,** how many of these surgeries have they done?
- If assistants are medical students/residents,** what would they do in my surgery?*
- Will you be performing or supervising any other surgeries during my surgery?***

*Patients may state a preference on these practices and they will be honored.