You will be scheduled for upcoming surgery with Dr. Patrick O’ Leary. The following are some of the things that you can expect prior to ELECTIVE (non-emergency) surgery:

-Dr. O’ Leary requires a medical clearance prior to surgery. This exam will be arranged by our office. You may also need a neurological clearance, if it has not been done already. The medical clearance MUST be done with a physician that is ON STAFF at the hospital so that he/she will be able to follow you post operatively at HSS.

-You will also need to have pre-admission testing done prior to admission, which consists of blood tests, chest x-ray and EKG. If you are having surgery at the Hospital for Special Surgery, this is a separate appointment than your medical clearance. The hospital will call you to schedule.

-If you need/wish to donate your own blood, or have directed donors for your upcoming procedure, we will discuss that with you.

**\* Please retain any films (X-rays, MRI, CT, Myelogram etc) and bring them with you to the hospital on the day of your admission or leave them in the office \***

-We will pre-certify the scheduled surgery with your insurance carrier. You can also call your insurance company to verify coverage and benefits. We are non-par with insurance carriers.

-The hospital will call you the day before surgery to advise you of the time of your surgery and any pre-operative instructions. If you would like to call them the **day** before your surgery, please utilize following number:

**Hospital for Special Surgery: (212) 606-1630**

-If you have any questions, please contact our office.

**Pre-Operative Appointment**

-When you go for your pre-operative exam, please bring with you a copy of prior electrocardiogram if available. If you are being treated for a heart or lung condition, please bring all records, including but not limited to angiogram reports, echocardiogram or reports, previous cardiac or pulmonary consultation reports, chest or CT scan reports.

-If you are being treated for any chronic illness or have a history of bleeding trouble please bring appropriate consultations and reports.

-This data will make for a more comprehensive evaluation.

**For Surgery Done At The Hospital For Special Surgery:**

-You will also need to have pre-admission testing done prior to admittance, which consists of blood tests, chest x-ray and EKG. If you are having surgery at the Hospital for Special Surgery, this is a separate appointment besides your medical clearance. We will try to arrange this appointment on the same day as your pre-operative examination.

-The hospital will call you to schedule. You can also call pre-testing at (212) 606-1100 to check on your appointment.

\***PLEASE CALL SONYA DAVIS (FINANCIAL DEPT) AT THE HOSPITAL FOR SPECIAL SURGERY FOR ANY QUESTIONS REGARDINGYOUR INSURANCE. THE CONTACT NUMBER IS (212) 774-2607. THIS IS FOR QUESTIONS REGARDING HOSPITAL BILLING ONLY.**

Hotels and Guest Facilities:

1. Bellaire Facility at the Hospital for Special Surgery

535 East 70th street

212-606-1989

1. The Franklin Hotel

164 East 87th street

212-369-1000

1. Hotel Wales

1295 Madison Ave

212-876-6000

1. Carlyle Hotel

35 East 76th street

212-744-1600

1. Mark Hotel

25 East 77th street

212-744-4300

**BLOOD DONATIONS**

-For some surgical procedures, Dr. O’Leary may recommend that you donate blood, which will be used at your surgery. Our office will advise you if your procedure will require an autologous transfusion. You should ALWAYS check with your medical doctor before setting up any donations appointment and also check with him/her to see if he/she recommends same or iron supplement.

-Blood is only good for 35 days so it is very important to donate in a timely fashion.

**Directed Donors:**

-If you are unable to donate blood yourself, you can get someone to donate for you (a family member/friend). Directed donor blood donations are accepted through the NY Blood Service. It is very important to find out when you call the NY Blood Services, what information is needed to ensure that your donor will be accepted to donate for you; i.e.: patient’s blood type, donor blood type, donor’s blood type, is donor’s blood compatible, how near to surgery can a donor donate, etc.

**\*\*IMPORTANT: If Dr. O’Leary recommends that you donate blood for your surgery, it is important to be aware that if no autologous donation or directed donor donations are available at the time of the surgery, then blood from the hospital blood bank may be used.**

-You can donate through the NY Blood Service; they have many locations. Our office will fax an order form to the NY Blood Services when you tell us you are going to call to set up your donation appointment. To get a complete list of locations, you can call **(800) 439-6876**.

**Pre-op blood donations are generally optional and not required in most cases.**

**For The Families of Those Scheduled For Surgery:**

-In the event that there are last minute questions or concerns on the day of surgery, any family member can see Dr. O’Leary prior to the surgery by following the steps listed below:

**For Surgery at the Hospital for Special Surgery:**

-The Family members can accompany the patient to the 4th floor room and advise the nurse in the holding area that they would like to see Dr. O’Leary.

Note: When you see Dr. O’Leary pre-operatively you can also make arrangements for communication with him after surgery.

Please be advised that sometimes surgery does not start and end on time and therefore may not be finished in the time frame we tell you.

**SPECIAL REQUESTS:**

Private Room:

The Hospital for Special Surgery: $1,450 extra per day (11th floor)

 $975 extra per day (standard)

 *Fees set by the hospital and are subject to change*

Private rooms must be paid for in advance.

If you wish to check up to date costs, please call the Admitting office at (212) 606-1241.

Note: We can request private rooms but we **CANNOT** guarantee them, this is up to the hospital and their availability at the time.

**PRIVATE DUTY NURSING:**

 The Hospital for Special Surgery (212) 774-7187

-You must call to set up private duty nursing. You will need to arrange payment, etc. over the phone when making the reservation.

IMPORTANT: Please be advised that most insurance coverage does NOT cover private rooms or private duty nursing.

-Our office can provide you with a STANDARD LETTER for private duty nursing post-operatively, but if your insurance carrier requires a more detailed letter, or a letter of medical necessity, our letter may not meet their requirements.

**POST OPERATIVE APPOINTMENT**

-When you have been discharges from the hospital, you should contact our office within two (2) days to give us an update on your condition. At this time, we will also set up your post-operative appointment which will be with Dr. Rachlin or another associate. This will be approximately 10-14 days after your surgery, at which time the stitches are removes and an x-ray may be taken.

-Future visits may be with one of Dr. O’Leary’s associates here in this office.

\*Please Note: Dr. O’Leary will continue to review all information (i.e. reports, x-rays, etc.) acquired during/subsequent visits and will see you if circumstances require it.

**SPINAL CORD MONITORING**

-Intraoperative spinal cord and nerve root monitoring has become acceptable for spine surgery. The procedure is considered medically important by Dr. O’Leary

-Intraoperative monitoring can help prevent spinal cord and nerve root injury during surgery. The risk of spinal cord and nerve root injury is a potential complication of spine surgery. Prior to surgery, the technician will place various monitors on your body. These monitors are used to evaluate your spinal cord and nerve roots. The monitoring devices are removed after surgery. Monitoring begins after you go to sleep for surgery and continues throughout the procedure.

Guidelines for Pre-Operative Medications:

-All Patients who are taking aspirin or aspirin-containing compounds\* and/or non-steroidal anti-inflammatory\* medications should DISCONTINUE the use of these drugs for a period of TEN (10) days prior to the surgery date. Any of the above medications have the potential of adversely affecting the surgical procedure, causing increased bleeding.

-Vitamin E and Gingko Biloba, multi-vitamins, saw palmetto, garlic, fish oil and blood thinners should be discontinued TEN (10) days prior to surgery.

**Please Note: If, however, special circumstances require that the** **patient take medications, it should be discussed with his/her medical doctor in advance.**

Post-Operative Medications to be Avoided

-ALL FUSION patients should know that anti-inflammatory\* drugs may inhibit the healing of fusions and therefore anti-inflammatories should not be taken during the post-operative period. It is important to use other medication to control pain, not the anti-inflammatories in the post-fusion cases.

\*Such as Aspirin, Advil, Bufferin, Daypro, Ibuprofen, Indocin, Motrin, Percodan. (These are just some examples, not all anti-inflammatory medication is listed)

Smoking

-All patients scheduled for a FUSION should stop smoking as far in advance of the surgery as possible and continue to abstain during the post-operative period (until fusion heals 6-12 months). It has now been shown that smoking inhibits the fusion.

Post-Operative Exercise

-Please note: For the first 6 months after surgery, the only exercise that Dr. O’Leary recommends is progressive ambulation unless otherwise specified by Dr. O’Leary.

-All post-operative patients are advised AGAINST flexion and stretching exercises to their spine in the post-operative period, until cleared by this office.

**The Morning of Surgery**

On the morning of your surgery, you will arrive several hours before your procedure is scheduled to begin.

* **The “Holding Area”:** You will come to the preoperative “Holding Area,” where you will be prepared for surgery. Please leave any valuables at home. This includes all jewelry, as you will be asked to remove it before entering the operating room. You will be asked to change into a hospital gown and assigned a room in the Holding Area. Some of your family can be with you during this time. A nurse will start an intravenous line to give you fluids, and if you are a woman of child-bearing age, you will be asked to provide a urine specimen for a pregnancy test.

**Parking at the hospital**

**Belaire Building Garage**
525 East 71st Street
New York, NY 10021
Tel: 212.606.3097

Current Daily Parking Rates (effective 4/26/11)
Up to 1/2 hr - $16
Up to 1 hr - $21
Up to 2 hr - $25
Up to 4 hr - $29
Up to 8 hr - $33
Up to 24 hr - $37