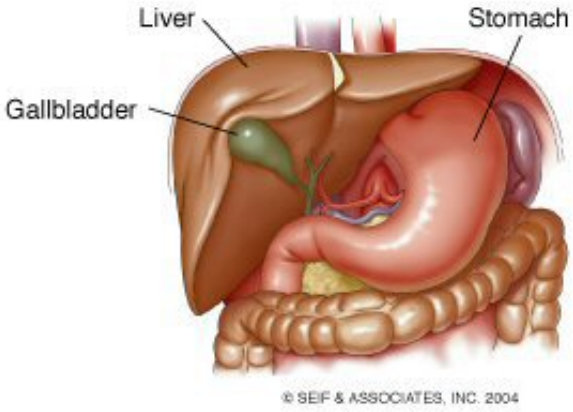
Gallbladder Surgery
After Care and Home Care

Please read the instructions outlined below and refer to this sheet in the next few weeks. These discharge instructions provide you with general information on caring for yourself after you leave the hospital. Your caregiver may also give you specific instructions. While your treatment has been planned according to the most current medical practices available, unavoidable complications occasionally occur. If you have any problems or questions after discharge, call your caregiver.



COMPLICATIONS

Some problems that occur following this procedure include:

- Infection: A germ starts growing in the wound. This can usually be treated with antibiotics.
- Damage to other organs may occur.
- Bleeding following surgery can be a complication of almost all surgeries. Your surgeon takes every precaution to keep this from happening.

AFTER SURGERY

- After surgery, you will be taken to the recovery area where a nurse will watch and check your progress. Once you are awake, stable, and taking fluids well, barring other problems you will be allowed to go home.
- For at least one day following surgery, do not:
  - Drink alcohol.
  - Drive a car.
  - Use public transportation.
  - Sign important papers .

Do not resume physical activities until directed by your caregiver and surgeon.

- Only take over-the-counter or prescription medicines for pain, discomfort, or fever as directed by your caregiver.
- If this was done as same day surgery, make sure to have a responsible adult with you to:
  - Drive you home.
  - Stay with you for the first twenty-four hours following your surgery.
- You may resume normal diet and activities as directed.
- Change dressings as directed.

SEEK MEDICAL CARE IF:

- There is redness, swelling, or increasing pain in the wound.
- There is pus coming from the wound.
- There is drainage from a wound lasting longer than one day.
- An unexplained oral temperature above 102° F (38.9°C) develops.
- You notice a foul smell coming from the wound or dressing.
- The incision breaks open.
- You notice increasing pain in the shoulders (shoulder strap areas).
- You develop dizzy episodes or fainting while standing.
- You develop persistent nausea or vomiting.

SEEK IMMEDIATE MEDICAL CARE IF:

- You develop a rash.
- You have difficulty breathing

- You develop any reaction or side effects to medications given.

Document Released: 01/06/2009 Document Re-Released: 04/05/2010
ExitCare® Patient Information ©2011 ExitCare, LLC.