

Initial Consultation for Surgery Appointment Preparation

- The initial consultation appointment is for **YOU**
- At this appointment the doctor will examine you and talk to you about your surgical options
- You will get to know the surgeon and clinic staff
- You are your best ADVOCATE!
 - If you do not understand something it is okay to ask again or ask the doctor to repeat it in another way
 - Bring a friend, family member, or case manager who can help you to remember your questions and make sure to get the answers you need
 - If you don't understand why the doctor gave a particular answer, ask "why?" That may help you get an answer you're satisfied with, or help you to challenge an answer that was not satisfactory.
- Before your consultation appointment, set goals:
 - Organize your thoughts and concerns and questions
 - Write your questions down ahead of time and bring them with you
- Good questions to ask at your consultation appointment are:

Questions about anatomy and the body

- What choices do I have about what my body will be like after surgery?
- How do I make my final decision about these choices?
- Do you have pictures of your surgery results?
- Will I have any change in function or my sexual response?

Questions about preparation and aftercare

- What are the possible complications of this surgery?
- Where will my surgery take place and how long will it take?
- How many nights will I spend in the hospital?
- What can I expect healing to look like?
- How long will I need to take off work/school?
- What can I do to prepare my body now for surgery?
- What medications do I need to stop before surgery?

- Make sure you have a phone number to follow up with surgeon if you have more questions:
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