

MEDICINE *of* THE HIGHEST ORDER

**ANESTHESIA SERVICES
INFORMATION SHEET**

HH 10769 PE

Anesthesia services are needed so that your operation or procedure may be performed.

All forms of anesthesia involve some risks and no guarantees or promises can be made concerning the results of your procedure or treatment. Although rare, unexpected severe complications with anesthesia can occur and include the remote possibility of but not limited to, infection, bleeding, drug reactions, blood clots, loss of sensation, loss of limb function, paralysis, stroke, brain damage, heart attack or death. These risks apply to all forms of anesthesia and additional or specific risks have been identified below as they may apply to a specific type of anesthesia. The type(s) of anesthesia service may be used for your procedure and the anesthetic technique to be used is determined by many factors including your physical condition, the type of procedure, as well as your preference. Anesthesia techniques which involve the use of local anesthetics, with or without sedation, may not succeed completely and therefore another technique may have to be used including general anesthesia.

General Anesthesia	Expected Result Technique Risks	Total state of unconsciousness. Drug injected into bloodstream, breathed into the lungs, or by other routes. Possible placement of tube into the windpipe. Mouth or throat pain, hoarseness, injury to mouth or teeth, awareness under anesthesia, injury to blood vessels, aspiration pneumonia.
Spinal or Epidural Analgesia/Anesthesia	Expected Result Technique Risks	Temporary decreased or loss of feeling and/or movement to lower part of the body. Drug injected through a needle/catheter placed either directly into the spinal canal or immediately outside the spinal canal. Headache, backache, buzzing in ears, convulsions, infection, persistent weakness, numbness, residual pain, injury to blood vessels, "total spinal."
Major/Minor Nerve Block	Expected Result Technique Risks	Temporary loss of feeling and/or movement of a specific limb or area. Drugs injected near nerves providing numbness to the area of the operation. Infection, convulsions, weakness, persistent numbness, residual pain, injury to blood vessels.
Intravenous Regional Anesthesia	Expected Result Technique Risks	Temporary loss of feeling and/or movement of a limb. Drug injected into veins of arm or leg while using a tourniquet. Infection, convulsions, persistent numbness, residual pain, injury to blood vessels.
Monitored Anesthesia Care	Expected Result Technique Risks	Reduced anxiety and partial or total amnesia. Drug injected into bloodstream, breathed into the lungs, or by other routes producing a semi-conscious state. An unconscious state, depressed breathing, injury to blood vessels.