



**Coronary
Artery Bypass
Graft Surgery**

Partners at Heart



**Port Huron
Hospital**



**ST. JOSEPH
MERCY HOSPITAL**

What to expect...

Partners at Heart



YOUR HEART

- ▶ Your heart has its own blood supply. When one or more of these vessels become blocked your heart is unable to pump properly and get the oxygen it needs. These blockages are caused by fatty deposits called “atherosclerosis.”

WHAT IS CORONARY ARTERY BYPASS GRAFT (CABG) SURGERY

- ▶ “CABG” is heart surgery that provides blood flow to coronary (heart) arteries that are blocked. This may be done using veins from the legs, an artery from the forearm or from the upper chest area. These vessels will provide a “bypass” of the blockage(s) and get blood flowing to the heart muscle in that area.

BEFORE SURGERY

- ▶ Quit smoking.
- ▶ Various tests will be ordered before the surgery.
- ▶ Do not bring valuables to the hospital.
- ▶ Give family members your glasses and dentures, if applicable.
- ▶ You will wash with a prescription strength anti-bacterial soap the night before and the morning of surgery.
- ▶ Expect a 5-7 day hospital stay.
- ▶ You will sign consent forms. This confirms that you understand the benefits, risks and alternatives available.

- ▶ You will not be allowed food or drink after midnight the day before your surgery.
- ▶ If you are at home, you will receive a call from pre-admission testing for arrival time. If you are inpatient, your family will want to be there 2 hours prior to scheduled time.

THE SURGERY

- ▶ May take 3-6 hours depending on the number of grafts.
- ▶ Many tubes and wires will be attached to you. When you start to awaken, you will be on a ventilator and have a “breathing tube”. You will not be able to speak. The tube will be taken out when you are fully awake.
- ▶ After surgery you will get settled into the ICU. Your family will speak with the surgeon and meet your nurse. They will receive the ICU visiting policy.

AFTER SURGERY

- ▶ You should be in the ICU approximately 24-36 hours. You will then be moved to Selective Care.
- ▶ You will have continuous monitoring of your heart. Many staff members will be involved in helping you with your recovery (doctors, nurses, exercise physiologists, respiratory therapists, dieticians).

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SELECTIVE CARE (after ICU)

- ▶ You are expected to participate in your recovery: walking, daily activities, hygiene, coughing and deep breathing.
- ▶ You need to work closely with your nurse on pain control.
- ▶ You will be out of bed (sitting or walking) when awake.
- ▶ Rest is also very important. Limiting visitors may be necessary.

GOING HOME

- ▶ You will receive complete discharge instructions before going home from your nurse and cardiac rehabilitation specialist.

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