

At Logansport Memorial Hospital, we want our patients to understand the different parts of their healthcare experience, so that they feel comfortable receiving their care. Medical terms used can often be confusing because they are not everyday terms that make up our vocabulary.

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Here is a list of helpful surgical definitions to use for reference so that you may better understand the terminology used during your hospital stay.

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**Pre-Op Education:** A scheduled visit with a nurse who will discuss your health history, explain your surgical experience, answer questions, and aid you in completing any pre-admission testing ordered by your doctor.

**Pre-Admission Testing:** Tests ordered by your doctor to prepare you for surgery. These could include several of the terms listed on this page.

**Lab Work:** Blood and/or urine samples which provide information about your cells and body chemistry.

**Electrocardiogram (EKG):** A tracing of your heart to check for abnormalities.

**Chest X-ray:** Image taken to help determine if your lungs are safe for surgery.

**CT, MRI, US:** Other imaging tests may be required by your doctor.

**Vital Signs:** Temperature, pulses, respirations, blood pressure, and O2 sat (oxygen saturation level). Upon your arrival, nurses will check your vital signs and your height and weight.

**Prep:** Procedure done to prepare your surgical site for surgery, such as shaving the skin, antiseptic scrub and shower, enema, douche.

**IV:** A tube placed into a vein with a needle to supply fluids and medications.

**Surgeon:** The doctor who performs your operation.

**Anesthetic:** Sleep, relaxation, and numbing medications given to produce the type of anesthesia ordered by your doctor, such as general, monitored anesthesia care (MAC), spinal, epidural, or block.

**Anesthesiologist:** The doctor who administers your anesthesia, as described in #7.

**Nurse:** Caregivers who prepare you for surgery and recover you after surgery.

**Incision:** The area that the surgeon has cut to perform your surgery.

**Dressing:** Any bandage that covers your incision to protect it after surgery.

**Anti-Deep Vein Thrombosis Devices:** Items used to promote good circulation, like TED Hoses or DVT Cuffs.

**TED Hose:** Snug support stockings.

**DVT Cuffs:** Cloth wraps around the lower legs that are attached to a pump to massage the calf of each leg.

**NG Tube:** A small tube placed through your nose into your stomach, which removes stomach content.

**Catheter:** A small tube which drains the bladder of urine.

**PCA Patient Controlled Analgesia:** Preset dose of narcotic in a pump connected to your IV, allowing you to give yourself small doses of pain medication.

**Incentive Spirometer:** A device to assist you in taking slow, deep breaths to keep your lungs well-expanded after surgery.