General Anesthesia  
Outpatient Surgery

During your surgery you had general anesthesia that made your whole body lose feeling, movement, and consciousness. It takes 24 hours for the anesthesia to leave your system.

Follow these instructions when you get home:

- **Do Not** drive for the next 24 hours.
- **Do Not** drink alcoholic beverages for the next 24 hours.
- **Do Not** make any important decisions or sign any contracts for the first 24 hours after your surgery.
- **Do** return to your normal diet slowly. Start with liquids and soft foods.
- **Do** have someone stay with you for the first 24 hours after your surgery.
- **Do** rest at home for the first 24 hours after your surgery.

If you have any questions, call your surgical clinic or Urgent Care at (612) 725-2000, extension 2771.

Content approval: Anesthesiology Section  
Specialty Care Patient Service Line

November 1994  
Revised June 1996  
Reviewed May 1998  
Revised July 2000  
Reviewed July 2002

VA Medical Center  
Minneapolis, Minnesota