



BLUE RIDGE SURGERY CENTER



**ATTENTION:**

Please review this brochure to learn about our facility and surgery expectations.

Log on to our website at  
[www.blueridgesurgerycenter.com](http://www.blueridgesurgerycenter.com)  
to submit your medical history.  
Click pre-register to start the online  
registration process and create your One  
Medical Passport via One Mnet health.

Blue Ridge Surgery Center is an Ambulatory Surgery Center (ASC). We seek to optimize our patients' experience through clinical quality, convenience, and cost savings. Experienced technicians, nurses, and physicians, supplied with the latest technology and equipment, strive to ensure each patient's successful recovery. We are committed to providing quality healthcare and are proud to be accredited by the Joint Commission (TJC), the State of North Carolina and Federal Medicare/Medicaid Programs. Blue Ridge Surgery Center is a proud member of SCA Health, one of the largest corporations of Ambulatory Surgery Centers in the nation.

Welcome	3
Before Surgery	5
Day of Surgery	7
After Surgery	8
Children & Special Needs Adults	8
Patient Rights & Responsibilities	9
Non-Discrimination Policies	12
Insurance & Billing	13
Medical Care Decisions	16
Questions	19

## Welcome

Welcome to Blue Ridge Surgery Center. We are delighted that you and your physician have chosen our facility for your care. Preparing for surgery can feel overwhelming if you do not know what to expect. Being informed will help you feel less nervous and more in control. This brochure contains important information regarding your upcoming surgery. Please read it carefully, following the instructions and any additional guidelines given to you by your physician. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at 919-781-4311.

## Patient Satisfaction Survey

At Blue Ridge Surgery Center, we strive to provide excellent care and would love to achieve a "10 out of 10" in patient satisfaction. Be sure to provide your email address when completing your health history or at registration and we will send you a link to complete an online survey after surgery. We appreciate your feedback!

## Scope of Services

A partner of SCA Health, our center works hard to ensure quality, safe and efficient patient care. We strive to make our facility a family friendly atmosphere, so you and your loved ones can have a stress-free experience.

- Anesthesiology
- Breast Surgery
- Colorectal Surgery
- Ear/Nose/Throat
- General Surgery
- Gynecology
- Ophthalmology
- Orthopedic Surgery
- Pain Management
- Plastic Surgery
- Podiatry
- Spinal Surgery

## Physicians

Due to Physician investment in this facility, it is required by North Carolina law that we notify you of the alternative facilities available to you:

**UNC Rex Hospital**  
**4420 Lake Boone Trail, Raleigh NC 27607**

**Wake Med Hospital**  
**3000 New Bern Avenue Raleigh, NC 27610**

Your signature on the day of your visit will also confirm that you have been made aware of the physician's ownership interest in the facility, and that you have been provided names and addresses of alternative facilities should you choose to use them.

**The Physicians Listed Below Have a Limited Partnership in Blue Ridge Surgery Center**

William K. Anderson, M.D.	Michael W. Kelly, M.D.
Edouard F. Armour, M.D.	Eric Lukosius, M.D.
Meaghan Bowling, M.D.	Sameer Mathur, M.D.
Laura D. Brown, M.D.	Steven J. McMahon, M.D.
Mark S. Brown, M.D.	William R. Meyer, M.D.
Sean T. Canale, M.D.	Jordan Meyers, M.D.
Raymon M. Carroll, M.D.	Jeremy J. Miles, M.D.
Ian Churnin, M.D.	William Morrel, M.D.
David A. Clark, M.D.	Sachin S. Mudvari, M.D.
Mark W. Clarkson, M.D.	John K. Park, M.D.
Mark A. Curzan, M.D.	Chad. Parkes, M.D.
Kevin M. Doyle, M.D.	James C. Pate, M.D.
William F. Durland, M.D.	Robert Peters, M.D.
Demetri Economedes, D.O.	Isaac Porter, M.D.
Edgar C. Garrabrant III, M.D.	Jeevan B. Ramakrishnan, M.D.
Matthew J. Gerber, M.D.	Derek L. Reinke, M.D.
Nitin Gupta, M.D.	Paul S. Riske, M.D.
Pankaj Gupta, M.D.	Richard G. Saleeby Jr., M.D.
Preeya Gupta, M.D.	Nael Shanti, M.D.
Elizabeth Hueman, M.D.	Brian T. Szura, M.D.
Kerry E. Hunt, M.D.	Frank J. Wessels, M.D.
Lauren Johnson, M.D.	Kirk E. Woelffer, M.D.
Nicolas-George Katsantonis, M.D.	

The facility is open to every qualified physician in the Raleigh area, allowing each patient freedom to choose their own physician. You are scheduled for outpatient surgery at the request of the doctor who will perform the surgical procedure.

## Before Surgery

We want the day of your surgery to be a seamless experience, where you can simply walk in, check-in at our front desk and be shown to pre-op rather than filling out pages of paperwork.

### Online Pre-Surgical History Instructions

To expedite your check-in process, our center requests that you fill out your medical history online with One Mnet Health. We recommend that you enter your medical history online as soon as your surgery has been scheduled.

One MNet Health is a website that allows you to enter your medical history at anytime from anywhere. Completing your medical history online is easy! For most patients, completing the questionnaire takes less than 30 minutes. This information will assist our nursing team in preparing for your surgery. Be assured your information is kept confidential. You can also print out a copy of your medical history after you create it online and keep it with your or with your other health care documents, as well as have access to it online anytime you need it or want to update it.

Be sure to have the following information available when completing your Medical Passport:

- The names, addresses and phone numbers of your physicians.
- A list of all medications you are taking, their dosage and frequency.
- A list of surgical procedures you have had and the approximate dates.

### To begin your Medical Passport:

- 1) Go to our website at [www.blueridgesurgerycenter.com](http://www.blueridgesurgerycenter.com)
- 2) Select the "Pre-Register online" quick link on the front page
- 3) Select "Start your online registration"
- 4) Once you are re-rerouted to the One Mnet Health website, click "register"
- 5) Complete the registration and medical history

**Our pre-op nursing team will review your information prior to surgery and give you a call if there are any questions. If we don't have any questions, you will receive your pre-operative instructions via email. Please be sure to enter a valid email address and cell phone number.**

**Note: If you are not able to complete your online history, please call our pre-op team at 919-781-4311 between the hours of 8:00 am - 4:00 pm to complete this via phone. Please allow 20 - 30 minutes for this call.**

## **Pre-Operative Guidelines**

**Follow these guidelines to help ensure that your operation goes smoothly.**

- We require every patient to have a caregiver (or a person giving the patient a ride home) to remain in the building at all times while the patient is at the center. Otherwise, your case will be cancelled.
- It is your responsibility to arrange for a responsible adult (18 years or older) to drive you home and remain with you the first 24 hours after surgery. You cannot drive yourself or be left alone.
- Notify your surgeon if there is any change in your physical condition, such as a cold or fever.
- If you wear contact lenses or glasses, bring a case for their safekeeping. We provide containers for any removable dentures or bridgework.
- We will advise you on what medications to take after reviewing your health history.
- If the patient cannot read, speak English, or use sign language, we will arrange interpretation services. Please be sure to alert the facility of this need.
- Arrival times will be sent out **THE BUSINESS DAY PRIOR TO SURGERY** between 12:00PM- 2:00PM. If you have opted to receive communication via text message/email, this is how you will receive your arrival time and pre-operative instructions. If you have not opted in for text/ email communication, you will receive a phone call from our team with this information. If you have not heard from our office by 2:00PM, please give us a call at 919-781-4311 (option 1). If your surgery is scheduled on a Monday, we will reach out with your arrival time the Friday before. If the surgery center is closed for a holiday, we will call you with your arrival time the business day prior.
- Food & Drink (NPO Instructions):
  - Food Instructions:
    - The night before your surgery you may eat a light meal **BEFORE 12:00 AM. NO SOLID FOODS ARE ALLOWED AFTER MIDNIGHT THE NIGHT BEFORE YOUR PROCEDURE.**
  - Clear Liquid Instructions:
    - Adults & Children- Clear liquids may be ingested up to **TWO (2) HOURS PRIOR TO**

YOUR SURGERY ARRIVAL TIME. Clear liquids include water, juice (without pulp), carbonated beverages, sports drinks, clear tea, and black coffee (without milk, sugar, cream, or artificial creamers). Alcohol and broth are NOT allowed.

- Infants: Breast milk may be given up to FOUR (4) HOURS PRIOR TO THEIR SURGERY ARRIVAL TIME. Infant formula may be given up to SIX (6) HOURS PRIOR TO ARRIVAL TIME

## Day of Surgery

**Follow all guidelines listed below to help ensure that your surgery goes smoothly.**

### Before Arrival

- Please bathe or shower prior to surgery, do not use any lotions or oils after. Do not wear makeup and remove nail polish (unless lightly colored). You may brush your teeth the morning of surgery, remembering not to swallow anything.
- Wear loose, comfortable clothing such as easy-to-button shirts or blouses that are big enough to accommodate a large bandage after surgery. Wear comfortable shoes (no high heels or boots).
- Leave all valuables, including jewelry and cash, at home. We cannot be responsible for damaged or lost property. Jewelry cannot be worn during surgery.
- Bring a photo ID, insurance cards, and all paperwork from your physician's office.
- Collect all necessary papers from your physician's office. Bring your driver's license and all insurance cards to the center. See the section on insurance and billing
- Please have all prescriptions received from your surgeon filled prior to your surgery.
- Please arrive promptly for your scheduled appointment.

### At Surgery Center

- Be prepared to sign a form giving your consent for the operation. If the patient is under eighteen, the parent or legal guardian must accompany the child and sign the consent form.
- Your caregiver will be asked to wait in our comfortable waiting room where coffee, vending machines and wireless internet access are available.
- When you arrive at our center, we ask that you check-in at the front desk via the iPad and have a seat in the waiting room. When the registration team is available, they will call you up to the desk for check-in. Patients are

- checked in according to their scheduled surgery time.
- After check-in, you will be asked to have a seat in the waiting room until the pre-op team is ready. Have your photo ID, insurance card and any needed paperwork available for our team.
  - Once ready, a nurse will guide you back to the pre-op area and get you ready for surgery. They will provide you with a gown and a garment bag to store your personal belongings in. They will also check your temperature, blood pressure and pulse, and ask you to empty your bladder before surgery. An anesthesiologist will also stop by to discuss the plan for anesthesia and answer any of your questions at this time.
  - You and your caregiver will remain in pre-op until it is time for surgery. When you are taken back to the operating room, your caregiver will be escorted to the waiting room where they can track your status via the lobby televisions and/or text message.

## After Surgery

- You will be taken to the post-anesthetic care unit (PACU) after surgery to recover. Once you are in stable condition, you will be discharged. Before you leave the center, you and your caretaker will receive verbal and written instructions for your care at home.
- If you experience anything unusual after your surgery, please call your surgeon or go to the nearest emergency room.
- After you have returned home, be sure to follow your doctor's orders regarding diet, rest, and medication. Unless directed otherwise, you should start your diet with clear liquids and gradually you can begin to eat solid foods. By the next day you should be back to your normal diet.
- It is not unusual to feel a little sleepy or dizzy for several hours after your operation. Do not sign any important papers or make any significant decisions for at least 24 hours.
- Do not drive your car, smoke, drink alcoholic beverages or operate machinery until the day after surgery, or until prescription pain medication is discontinued.

## Children & Special Needs Adults

At Blue Ridge Surgery Center, we meet the needs of our patients by creating a relaxed, comfortable environment. Caregivers are able to stay with the patient until they go to the operating room and may rejoin them as soon as they wake up.



## Children

- To make young children feel more comfortable, we encourage them to bring along a favorite toy and/or blanket.
- Please bring a cup/bottle for small children, to be given to them after surgery in the recovery room.

## Special Needs Adults

- The legal guardian will need to sign registration forms, the consent for surgery and anesthesia on or before the day of surgery.

## Patient Rights and Responsibilities

**SCA observes and respects a patient's rights and responsibilities without regard to age, race, color, sex, national origin, religion, culture, physical or mental disability, personal values, or belief systems.**

### You Have the Right to:

- Considerate, respectful, and dignified care and respect for personal values, beliefs, and preferences.
- Access to treatment without regard to race, ethnicity, national origin, color, creed/religion, sex, age, mental disability, or physical disability. Any treatment determinations based on a person's physical status or diagnosis will be made on the basis of medical evidence and treatment capability.
- Respect for personal privacy.
- Receive care in a safe and secure environment.
- Exercise your rights without being subjected to discrimination or reprisal.
- Know the identity of persons providing care, treatment, or services and, upon request, be informed of the credentials of healthcare providers and, if applicable, the lack of malpractice coverage.
- Expect the center to disclose, when applicable, physician financial interests or ownership in the center.
- Receive assistance when requesting a change in primary or specialty physicians or dentists if other qualified physicians or dentists are available.
- Receive information about health status, diagnosis, the expected prognosis and expected outcomes of care, in terms that can be understood before a treatment or a procedure.
- Receive information about unanticipated outcomes of care.
- Receive information from the physician about any proposed treatment procedure as needed to give or withhold informed consent.

- Participate in decisions about care, treatment or services planned and to refuse care, treatment of services, in accordance with law and regulation.
- Be informed, or when appropriate, your representative be informed (as allowed under state law) of your rights in advance of furnishing or discontinuing patient care whenever possible.
- Receive information in a manner tailored to your level of understanding, including provision of interpretative assistance or assistive devices.
- Have family be involved in care, treatment, or service decisions to the extent permitted by you or your surrogate decision maker, in accordance with laws and regulations.
- Appropriate assessment and management of pain, information about pain, pain relief measures and participation in pain management decisions.
- Give or withhold informed consent to produce or use recordings, film, or other images for purposes other than care, and to request cessation of production of the recordings, films, or other images at any time.
- Be informed of and permit or refuse any human experimentation or other research/educational projects affecting care or treatment.
- Confidentiality of all information pertaining to care and stay in the center, including medical records and, except as required by law, the right to approve or refuse the release of your medical records.
- Access to and/or copies of your medical records within a reasonable time frame and the ability to request amendments to your medical records.
- Obtain information on disclosures of health information within a reasonable time frame.
- Have an advance directive, such as a living will or durable power of attorney for healthcare and be informed as to the center's policy regarding advance directives/living will. Expect the center to provide the state's official advance directive form if requested and where applicable.
- Obtain information concerning fees for services rendered and the center's payment policies.
- Be free from restraints of any form that are not medically necessary or are used as a means of coercion, discipline, convenience, or retaliation by staff.
- Expect the center to establish a process for prompt resolution of patients' grievances and to inform each patient whom to contact to file a grievance. Grievances/complaints and suggestions regarding treatment or care that is (or fails to be) furnished may be expressed at any time. Grievances may be lodged with the state agency directly using the contact information provided in this brochure.

## You Are Responsible For:

- Being considerate of other patients and personnel and assisting in the control of noise, smoking and other distractions.
- Respecting the property of others and the center.
- Identifying any patient safety concerns.
- Observing prescribed rules of the center during your stay and treatment.
- Providing a responsible adult to transport you home from the center and remain with you for 24 hours if required by your provider.
- Reporting whether you clearly understand the planned course of treatment and what is expected of you and asking questions when you do not understand your care, treatment, service or what you are expected to do.
- Keeping appointments and, when unable to do so for any reason, notifying the center physician.
- Providing caregivers with the most accurate and complete information regarding present complaints, past illnesses and hospitalizations, medications, unexpected changes in your condition or any other patient's health matters.
- Promptly fulfilling your financial obligations to the center, including charges not covered by insurance.
- Provide payment to the center for copies of the medical records you may request.
- Informing your providers about any living will, medical power of attorney, or other advance directive that could affect your care.

### **A full copy of your Patient Rights and Responsibilities is available at the center.**

You may contact the following entities to express any concern, complaints, or grievances you may have:

#### **Blue Ridge Surgery Center**

Contact: Natacha Draper, CEO / Facility Administrator

Address: 2308 Wesvill Court, Raleigh, NC 27607

Phone: 919-781-4311

#### **State Agency**

Contact: Rita Horton, Division Contact, North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Health, and Human Service Regulation Complaint Intake Unit

Address: 2711 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699

Phone: 800-624-3004 or 919-855-4500

#### **Medicare**

Office of the Medicare Beneficiary Ombudsman:

[www.cms.hhs.gov/center/ombudsman.asp](http://www.cms.hhs.gov/center/ombudsman.asp)

# Non-Discrimination Policies

## Anti-Discrimination Policy

Blue Ridge Surgery Center:

- Complies with applicable Federal civil rights laws and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, or sex.
- Does not exclude people or treat them differently because of race, color, national origin, age, disability, or sex.
- Provides free aids and services to people with disabilities to communicate effectively with us, such as:
  - Qualified sign language interpreters
  - Written information in other formats (large print, audio, accessible electronic formats, other formats)
- Provides free language services to people whose primary language is not English, such as:
  - Qualified interpreters
  - Information written in other languages

If you need these services, contact the facility. If you believe that you have been denied any of these services or discriminated against in another way, on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, or sex, you can file a grievance with the facilities CEO. You can file a grievance in person or by mail, fax, or email. If you need help filing a grievance, please contact us directly.

Natacha Draper, CEO  
2308 Wesvill Court, Raleigh, NC 27607  
P: 919-781-4311 F: 866-993-3329  
E: [natacha.draper@scasurgery.com](mailto:natacha.draper@scasurgery.com)

You can also file a civil rights complaint with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office for Civil Rights, electronically through the Office for Civil Rights Complaint Portal, available at <https://www.hhs.gov/civil-rights/filing-a-complaint/index.html> or by mail or phone at:

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
200 Independence Avenue, SW  
Room 509F, HHH Building, Washington, D.C. 20201  
800-368-1099, 800-537-7697 (TDD)

## Limited English Proficiency of Language Assistance Services

TTY stands for “teletypewriter”. TTY devices translate typed text into electronic signals sent across the telephone

network and retranslated to text at the other line. Modern smartphones have an integrated TTY mode that works in the same way, allowing text communication over a voice call. When TTY mode is enabled, the phone will connect with a TTY device through a TTY cable. The person on the other end can read the message on their device's display whether they're using a TTY device or another phone with TTY mode. To use these services, you can dial 711 to be automatically connected to a communications assistant or call 206-973-2651 directly.

To view a copy of this document:

- Log on to [www.blueridgesurgerycenter.com](http://www.blueridgesurgerycenter.com)
- Posted in the facilities lobby
- Request a copy at registration

## Insurance and Billing

**For any insurance questions or billing inquires/ concerns, you can reach out to our billing office directly at 919-300-5190.**

Standard charges have been established for all services at Blue Ridge Surgery Center. The fee for your procedure, supplies, medication, use of equipment and the recovery room will be billed to your insurance company.

**Out of pocket charges are expected to be paid on the day of surgery unless prior arrangements have been made. All cosmetic and self-pay procedures must be paid for in full at the time of service.** We accept cash, personal checks, cashier's checks, money orders, and Visa, Mastercard, Discover, American Express or Care Credit with credit card approval on the date of payment.

The bill from Blue Ridge Surgery Center DOES NOT include the services of your surgeon, anesthesiologist, pathologist, or special lab testing. Anesthesia is provided by NAPA and will be billed separately. For anesthesia estimates, call NAPA directly at 866-3006-6007. NAPA will submit claims to your insurance company for services rendered.

Due to the number of insurance plans, it is your responsibility to contact your insurance company if you have a question regarding coverage.

### Pre-Service Estimates

**Five to ten days prior to surgery, the billing team will reach out to you with a pre-service estimate.** This estimate

is based on the current eligibility provided by your insurance carrier and the information provided by your surgeon's office at time of scheduling. If the facility costs are more than anticipated, you will be billed for the difference after surgery. Any overpayments will be refunded after receipt of the insurance payment. If a payment is made pre-operatively to your surgeon's office, you may contact the Blue Ridge Billing Department and they will be able to recalculate your surgery estimate. You will need to provide them with proof of payment (copy of the receipts). You may also bring your receipts of payments made to your surgeon's office into the center and we will recalculate your surgery estimate at time of service.

## Surprise Medical Bills

When you get emergency care or get treated by an out-of-network provider at an in-network hospital or ambulatory surgical center, you are protected from surprise billing or balance billing.

### **What is "balance billing" (sometimes called "surprise billing")?**

When you see a doctor or other health care provider, you may owe certain out-of-pocket costs, such as a co-payment, coinsurance, and/or a deductible. You may have other costs or have to pay the entire bill if you see a provider or visit a health care facility that is not in your plan's network.

"Out-of-network" describes providers and facilities that have not signed a contract with your health plan. Out-of-network providers may be permitted to bill you for the difference between what your plan agreed to pay and the full amount charged for a service. This is called "balance billing." This amount is likely more than in-network costs for the same service and might not count toward your annual out-of-pocket limit.

"Surprise billing" is an unexpected balance bill. This can happen what you cannot control who is involved in your care - like when you have an emergency or when you schedule a visit at an in-network facility but are unexpectedly treated by an out-of-network provider.

## **You are protected from balance billing for: Emergency Services**

If you have an emergency medical condition and get emergency services from an out-of-network provider or facility, the most the provider or facility may bill you is your plan's in-network cost-sharing amount (such as copayments

and coinsurance). You cannot be balance billed for these emergency services. This includes services you may get after you are in stable condition, unless you give written consent and give up your protection not to be balance billed for these post-stabilization services.

### **Certain services at an in-network hospital or ambulatory surgical center**

When you get services from an in-network hospital or ambulatory surgical center, certain providers there may be out-of-network. In these cases, the most those providers may bill you is your plan's in-network cost-sharing amount. This applies to emergency medicine, anesthesia, pathology, radiology, laboratory, neonatology, assistant surgeon, hospitalist, or intensivist services. These providers cannot balance bill you and may not ask you to give up your protections not to be balance billed. If you get other services at these in-network facilities, out-of-network providers cannot balance bill you, unless you give written consent and give up your protections.

**You're never required to give up your protection from balance billing. You also are not required to take care from out-of-network providers. You can choose a provider or facility in your plan's network.**

**When balance billing is not allowed, you also have the following protections:**

- You are only responsible for paying your share of the cost (like the copayments, coinsurance, and deductibles that you would pay if the provider or facility was in-network). Your health plan will pay out-of-network providers and facilities directly.
- Your health plan generally must:
  - Cover emergency services without requiring you to get approval for services in advance (prior authorization).
  - Cover emergency services by out-of-network providers.
  - Base what you owe the provider or facility (cost-sharing) on what it would pay an in-network provider or facility and show that amount in your explanation of benefits.
  - Count any amount you pay for emergency services or out-of-network services toward your deductible and out-of-pocket limit.

**If you believe you've been wrongly billed**, you may contact The Department of Health and Human Services: 1-800-985-3059 or North Carolina Department of Insurance: 1-855-408-1212.

Visit <https://www.cms.gov/nosurprises> for more information about your rights under federal law.

Visit <https://www.ncdoi.gov/insurance-industry> for more information about your rights under state law.

## Medical Care Decisions

### Patient Rights

#### What are my rights?

##### **Who decides about my medical care or treatment?**

If you are 18 years of age or older and have the capacity to make and communicate health care decisions, you have the right to make decisions about your medical/mental health treatments. You should talk to your doctor or other health care provider about any treatment or procedure so that you understand what will be done and why. You have the right to say yes and/or no to treatments recommended by your doctor or mental health provider. If you want to control decisions about your health/mental health care even if you become unable to make or to express yourself, you will need an "advance directive."

### Advance Directive

##### **What is an "advance directive"?**

An advance directive is a set of directions you provide about the health/mental health care you want if you ever lose the ability to make decisions for yourself. North Carolina has three ways for you to make a formal advance directive. One way is called a "living will;" another is called a "health care power of attorney"; and another is called an "advance instruction for mental health treatment".

##### **Do I have an advance directive and what happens if I do not?**

Making a living will, a health care power of attorney or an advance instruction for mental health treatment is your choice. If you become unable to make your own decisions and you have no living will, advance instruction for mental health treatment, or a person named to make medical/mental health decision for you ("health care agent"), your doctor or health/mental health care provider will consult with someone close to you about your care.

##### **How do I make an advance directive?**

You must follow several rules when you make a formal living will, health care power of attorney or an advance instruction for mental health treatment. These rules are to protect you and ensure that your wishes are clear to the doctor or other provider who may be asked to carry them out. A living will, a health care power of attorney and advance instruction for



mental health treatment must be written and signed by you while you are still able to understand your condition and treatment choices and to make those choices known. Two qualified people must witness all three types of advance directive. The living will and the health care power of attorney also must be notarized.

### **Are there forms I can use to make an advance directive?**

Yes. There is a living will form, a health care power of attorney form and an advance instruction for mental health treatment form that you can use. These forms meet all the rules for a formal advance directive. Using the special form is the best way to make sure that your wishes are carried out.

### **When will an advance directive go into effect?**

A living will goes into effect when you are going to die soon and cannot be cured, or when you are in a persistent vegetative state. The powers granted by your health care power of attorney go into effect when your doctor states in writing that you are not able to make your own health care choices. When you have a health care power of attorney, you can name the doctor or mental health provider you would want to make this decision. An advance instruction for mental health treatment goes into effect when it is given to your doctor or mental health provider. The doctor will follow the instructions you have put in the document, except in certain situations, after the doctor determines that you are not able to make known your choices about mental health treatment. After a doctor determines this, your Health Care Power of Attorney may make treatment decisions for you.

### **What happens if I change my mind?**

You can cancel your living will anytime by informing your doctor that you want to cancel it and destroying all copies of it. You can change your health care power of attorney while you are able to make known your decisions, by signing another one and telling your doctor and each health care agent you named of the change. You can cancel your advance instruction for mental health treatment while you are able to make known your decision, by telling your doctor or other provider that you want to cancel it.

### **Whom should I talk to about an advance directive?**

You should talk to those closest to you about an advance directive and your feelings about the health care you would like to receive. Your doctor or health care provider can answer medical questions. A lawyer can answer questions about the law. Some people also discuss the decision with clergy or other trusted advisors.

### **Where should I keep my advance directive?**

Keep a copy in a safe place where your family members can get it. Give copies to your family, your doctor or other health/mental health care provider, your health care agent, and any close friends who might be asked about your care should you become unable to make decisions.

## **Living Will**

### **What is a living will?**

In North Carolina, a living will is a document that tells others that you want to die a natural death if you are terminally and incurably sick or in a persistent vegetative state from which you will not recover. In a living will, you can direct your doctor not to use heroic treatments that would delay your dying, for example by using a breathing machine (respirator or ventilator), or to stop such treatments if they have been started. You can also direct your doctor not to begin or to stop giving you food and water through a tube (artificial nutrition or hydration).

## **Health Care Power of Attorney**

### **What is a health care power of attorney?**

In North Carolina, a health care power of attorney is a legal document that allows an individual to empower another with decisions regarding his or her healthcare and medical treatment. Healthcare power of attorney becomes active when a person is unable to make decisions or consciously communicate intentions regarding treatments.

### **How should I choose a health care agent?**

You should choose an adult you trust and discuss your wishes with the person before you put them in writing.

## **FAQ's**

### **Where can I get more information?**

Your health care provider can tell you how to get more information about advance directives. You can also contact the facility to discuss this further.

The Blue Ridge Surgery Center  
(919) 781-4311

[www.blueridgesurgerycenter.com](http://www.blueridgesurgerycenter.com)

*Developed by the North Carolina Division of Medical Assistance in cooperation with the Department of Human Resources Advisory Panel on Advance Directives 1991. Revised 1999. NC Department of Health and Human Services.*

## **Questions**

If you have any questions about your upcoming procedure or the information provided in this brochure, please give us a call at 919-781-4311. We hope all of your questions about Blue Ridge Surgery Center have been answered.

Please notify your surgeon's office and the center as soon as possible if you cannot make your scheduled surgery appointment. Early notification helps to better accommodate you and other patients.

## **Thank You**

We appreciate the trust you have placed in the staff at Blue Ridge Surgery Center. We will make every attempt to honor that trust by providing the high-quality medical care you expect and deserve. We want your visit to be as pleasant as possible and welcome any comments and suggestions you may have.

At Blue Ridge Surgery Center, we are committed to quality healthcare. Proof of this commitment is our accreditation by The Joint Commission. We have achieved accreditation by providing care that meets or exceeds The Joint Commission Standard for quality healthcare.

Since 2016, Blue Ridge Surgery Center is a Center of Excellence as we received Certificates of Distinction in laminectomy and joint replacement knee surgeries. Blue Ridge Surgery Center is licensed and inspected by the Department of Human Resources and the Division of Facility Services.

# Surgery Information

Surgery Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*Arrival times will be sent out the BUSINESS DAY PRIOR TO SURGERY between 12:00-2:00pm.\*\*\*

Blue Ridge Surgery Center does not provide emergency services.

In the event the weather delays the opening or closes the center, every attempt will be made to contact you by phone to notify you of any changes to the schedule. In case of inclement weather, please listen to WRAL or ABC11.

## BLUE RIDGE SURGERY CENTER



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P: 919-781-4311 • F: 866-993-3329

[www.blueridgesurgerycenter.com](http://www.blueridgesurgerycenter.com)

