

AFTER YOUR SURGERY

When to Call

The signs worth a phone call — and the ones that mean call 911 right away.

Call your team

Not an emergency, but don't wait it out.

- Fever or shaking chills
- Pain that's getting worse
- Incision redness, swelling, or drainage
- Bleeding that soaks a dressing
- Can't keep fluids down, or not urinating

Call 911 now

Don't drive yourself — call for help.

- Chest pain or trouble breathing
- Severe or uncontrolled bleeding
- Fainting or confusion
- Calf pain/swelling with breathlessness
- Swelling, hives, or trouble swallowing

When in doubt, **call** — trust your gut. We would always rather hear from you.

Fever	Call for a temperature at or above 100.4°F (38°C) , or shaking chills. A low-grade temperature the first day can be normal — when unsure, call.
Your incision	Spreading redness, warmth, swelling, foul or increasing drainage , or a wound that opens can signal infection. A little bruising and clear ooze early on is usually normal.
Bleeding	Call if bleeding soaks through a dressing or won't stop with gentle pressure. Heavy or uncontrolled bleeding is a 911 emergency.
Nausea & fluids	Call if you can't keep liquids down , vomiting won't stop, you aren't urinating, or you're severely constipated from pain medicine.
Don't wait — call 911	Chest pain, trouble breathing, fainting, confusion, or calf pain and swelling with shortness of breath (a possible blood clot). Call 911 or go to the ER now.

Not sure? Call your recovery team — any time
Your facility's care team

Your Surgery Center · Patient education for surgery.
Educational information only, not personal medical advice. In
an emergency, call 911. Always follow the specific instructions
from your care team.