

# AUSTIN-WESTON CENTER FOR COSMETIC SURGERY

## ROLE OF A SUPPORT PERSON

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The role of the support person is a critical one for surgery and recovery to run smoothly. This role doesn't require a nurse. Family members and friends generally make wonderful support persons. Below are some of the requirements and common duties of the support person. In taking on this job, the support person must be willing and able to perform these tasks:

- The support person must be over 16 years of age with a valid driver's license and able to speak, understand and read English. This is important in communicating with the physicians and nurses should any questions arise and to read and understand all instructions. **YOU MUST MAKE YOUR SUPPORT PERSON AWARE OF ALL PROCEDURES YOU ARE HAVING.**
- The day of surgery, the support person must stay at the Center until the nurse has met with them, usually around 30 minutes after designated arrival time. After meeting with the nurse, the support person may stay at the Center or may leave. If they leave, they must be reachable by phone and must return to the Center by the established discharge time given to them by the medical staff. Because surgery times change, we ask that they be available the entire day of surgery.
- An OR Fee of \$400 may be charged to the patient if the support person arrives later than the established discharge time. This minimum fee of \$400 applies to any late arrival, up to an hour. Beyond one hour, an additional fee may be charged.
- After surgery, the support person must stay CONTINUOUSLY with the patient for at least the first evening. **THIS INCLUDES OVERNIGHT.**
- The support person should not leave the patient alone; even to run a short errand. The medications from surgery are sedating and while most patients are just sleepy, others may be confused and lack good judgment.
- We ask the support person to help the patient with walking, such as assistance to the bathroom. Medications may make some people unsteady on their feet, but some movement and walking is necessary.
- We will give them post-op instructions for all procedures, including those for medications and changing bandages. A nurse will review all instructions with them and answer all their questions.
- The support person will be given the phone number for the emergency nurse on call in case you have questions or concerns for the 24 hours following surgery.
- The support person will need to bring the patient to the Center the morning after surgery.

*I acknowledge that I understand the above roles of the support person and will communicate these responsibilities to the person of my choice.*

Patient Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Witness Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

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