

Surgery Tool Guide



A quick look at some of the new things I might see before or after my heart surgery

Oxygen Mask

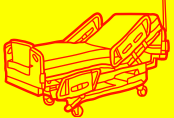


Nasal Cannula

An oxygen mask or nasal cannula is worn on your face to help you breathe easily. The mask covers the mouth and nose.

The cannula is worn under the nose. They both help bring precise levels of oxygen to recovering lungs.

Hospital Bed



You'll get a special hospital bed during your stay. The look and size depend on age. It has wheels, and different adjustment settings to help you find comfortable positions for resting and recovering.

Blood Pressure Cuff



A blood pressure cuff is usually worn on your upper arm. It feels like a bear hug when it begins to inflate, and sounds like a small air pump. As it slowly deflates, it lets the team measure the blood pressure in your arteries.

Thermometer



Regular temperature checks using a thermometer are essential to the recovery process. The staff may use a handheld thermometer, gently swiping it across your forehead for measurement.

Monitor



Leads

Leads that monitor heart rate and oxygen levels resemble ribbons with stickers that connect to a monitor, beeping to alert the team when assistance is needed. As recovery progresses, leads are gradually removed.

Chest Tubes



Pacing Wires

Chest tubes and pacing wires are common after surgery. Chest drainage tubes remove excess fluids and connect to a bubbling device at the bed's foot, while pacing wires monitor heart recovery. Both will be removed as you heal.

IV Fluids



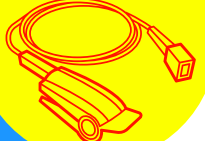
After surgery, it's essential to consume vitamin and nutrient rich liquids to aid recovery, as the stomach may be sensitive, IV fluids will help. Appetite will return soon.

Tape



Special tape is used to hold the nasal cannula, leads, or your IV in place so they stay in place while you rest. Taking it off may feel like a band aid but the team has special spray to help.

Pulse Oximeter



A pulse oximeter or pulse ox will stick on your head, finger, or toe. It feels like a sticker and has a red glow, to let staff know it is working. It measures the amount of oxygen in your red blood cells.

Needle & Syringe



Needles are used to inject medicine into IV lines for steady dosing, aiding healing and pain relief. Syringes provide liquid medicine with reduced spillage risk. Don't hesitate to ask for help if you continue to feel pain.