GENERAL CONCEPTS:
You are scheduled for surgery (or a procedure) at the University Hospital in the near future. Although these things become fairly routine, we never take any surgery for granted.

Any surgery can have complications. These can range from expected soreness after a procedure to something more major with your heart or lungs – thankfully these major things happen less than 1% of the time. Any laparoscopic or robotic procedure occasionally may be converted to an open procedure, and, occasionally when we set out to take part of an organ removal of the entire organ is required. Rarely, a routine procedure can result in several surgeries and a prolonged hospital stay. Our surgeons are experienced, well-trained individual and care about every patient and every procedure. They will do every possible thing to get you through this procedure and back to a happy, productive life. If you do not feel fully informed or if you have any questions at all, call our nursing line at 720-848-0170 or email your provider through MyHealthConnection. Also, remember, your surgeon will be touching base with you again about an hour before your surgery when you come to the hospital. Feel free to come with other questions you have thought of.

SCHEDULING:
The Operating Room schedulers should call you a few days before surgery. They will tell you exactly what time to come to the hospital. In general, patients are instructed to not eat any more solid food after midnight on the night before their procedure. You may drink clear liquids you can see through until 2 hours before you are supposed to be at the hospital. Occasionally times will shift as the date gets closer and they are moving patients in exactly the right slots on the grid.

BLOOD THINNERS:
In general you should be off blood thinners, aspirin, anti-inflammatory over-the-counter agents (Aleve, Motrin, AlkaSeltzer etc.) a week prior to your procedure. Your primary care provider should ok your coming off major blood thinners and aspirin.

AND FINALLY:
Relax, take a deep breath, and realize every minute you are getting closer to having your surgery over with!