



## INFORMATION FOR INTERNATIONAL PATIENTS

Thank you for your interest in Advanced Endoscopy Center. In the next few pages we will provide you important information aimed at making your trip and your visit to our facilities a pleasant and positive one.

Our facilities are located inside Damas Hospital, in the second floor. You can reach us at 787-843-1129, Monday through Friday between 7:00AM and 3:00PM.

It is important that you read the information below to avoid inconveniences on the day of your procedure.

Advanced Endoscopy Center is an ambulatory endoscopy center which specializes in endoscopic procedures. Given the nature of the procedures we perform, we estimate that your stay in our facilities will not be longer than two or three hours. However, it is probable that you might need an evaluation at the doctor's office prior to the procedure, in that case you should plan on traveling to Puerto Rico a few days before the date of your procedure. Depending on which procedure you are having, we will notify you if this evaluation is necessary or not. It is also important that you plan to remain in the Island at least the remainder of the day of the procedure so that we might be able to assist you should a complication arise.

### BEFORE YOUR TRIP

- We recommend that you consult with your primary care physician whether you are fit to travel and undergo the procedure.
- We need to remind you and make it very clear that although the procedures we perform are minimally invasive, all medical procedures carry a risk of complications, even if they rarely occur.
- Since you will be away from your home and your country, we want you to be aware that should any complication occur, you have to be prepared to remain in Puerto Rico until it resolves. This might mean a longer than expected hotel stay and in some cases a hospital admission. In both cases, you will be responsible for the additional costs.
- We recommend that you verify all travel requirements for citizens of your country traveling to the United States and that you make sure you meet any necessary visa requirements.

- You must travel in the company of an adult who will be responsible for you when you are discharged from the Center. If you rent a car to move around, that person must be able to drive since you will not be allowed to do so after your procedure.
- Prior to your trip, you must send us the health history questionnaire that we have provided. It is also important that you make available to us any diagnostic study or copies of your medical charts that are pertinent to the procedure to be performed.
- You must bring with you a form of identification such as driver's license or passport so that we can confirm your identity.
- Further ahead, we will provide you information about Puerto Rico, travel arrangements, transportation and lodging to help you plan your trip.
- We will inform you and discuss with you the costs involved and payment methods. It is important that you know that in case it is necessary to take tissue samples (biopsies), or perform a fluid analysis, the costs of pathology services and clinical laboratory are not included and you will be responsible for them. At the same time, if it is necessary to use special materials in addition to what was planned for your procedure, we might have to charge you for them.

## **BEFORE YOUR PROCEDURE**

- Prior to the procedure, you need to send us all the necessary documentation (medical history, laboratory results if applicable).
- Depending on your procedure, we will inform you if a pre-procedure consultation with the physician is needed. In such case, we will help you coordinate your appointment with the doctor's office.
- If you use medication such as aspirin, warfarin, Plavix or any other anticoagulant, you must notify us so that we can indicate if it is necessary for you to stop any of them. Please notify us as well if you have a pacemaker, defibrillator or valve replacement.
- Depending on your procedure, it might be necessary for you to have a pre-procedure visit with the anesthesia provider. We will notify you if it is necessary and will help you coordinate this evaluation.
- We will provide you pre procedure instructions and preparation that you might need for your procedure. It is important that you follow the instructions strictly. If you have any questions, please contact us.
- On the day of your procedure, you must be accompanied by an adult that can take you back to your hotel. If there is no responsible person with you, we cannot perform the

procedure. You must arrange for someone to be with you for at least the first 24 hours following your procedure.

- DO NOT eat anything after midnight the day prior to your procedure. Follow the instructions we will provide regarding medications you can take.
- The day of your procedure, dress comfortably. It is not necessary to bring a pillow, we will provide you one. You might bring a blanket for your comfort. We will provide you a locker with a key for you to store your belongings, but we recommend not to bring jewelry or other valuables with you. Advanced Endoscopy Center is not responsible for lost items or those left behind in the dressing room.
- **You must remove your nail polish from at least one finger in each hand. If not, it might result in the cancellation of your procedure.**

#### THE DAY OF YOUR PROCEDURE

- You must be at the center at the time we previously indicated. Upon arrival, register with the receptionist. Once you complete the required documents with the receptionist, the clinical staff will escort you to the procedure area.
- Please notify us if you have any special circumstances on the day of the procedure so that we may try to accommodate your needs and make your visit as pleasant as possible.
- If you are pregnant or suspect you might be pregnant, please inform our nursing staff. Certain medications used during the procedure might be harmful during pregnancy.

#### AFTER YOUR PROCEDURE

- Upon discharge, you and your companion will receive detailed instructions on how to conduct yourself after the procedure.
- It is important that you follow these instructions closely. The discharge instructions will indicate a number to call in case of an emergency.
- The center's staff will contact you to see how you are doing following the procedure. You will receive a phone call the following day or on Monday if your procedure took place on Friday.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Patient Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Patient Signature or Responsible Party (indicate relationship)

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