

# Getting Ready for Eye Surgery

This pamphlet is for educational purposes only. It is not intended to replace the advice or professional judgment of a health care provider. The information may not apply to all situations. If you have any questions, please ask your health care provider.

Find this pamphlet and all our patient resources here:  
<https://library.nshealth.ca/Patients-Guides>

Connect with a registered nurse in Nova Scotia any time:  
Call 811 or visit: <https://811.novascotia.ca>

*Prepared by:* Eye Care Centre  
*Designed by:* Nova Scotia Health Library Services

WW85-0134 © August 2022 Nova Scotia Health Authority  
To be reviewed August 2025 or sooner, if needed.

## Eye Care Centre

Please bring this guide to the hospital with you on the day of your surgery.

A responsible adult must go with you to your appointment and **stay at the hospital with a cell phone for nursing staff to call** when ready to take you home after surgery. **Your surgery may be cancelled if you do not have someone with you to drive you home.**

Aussi disponible en français :  
FF85-2014

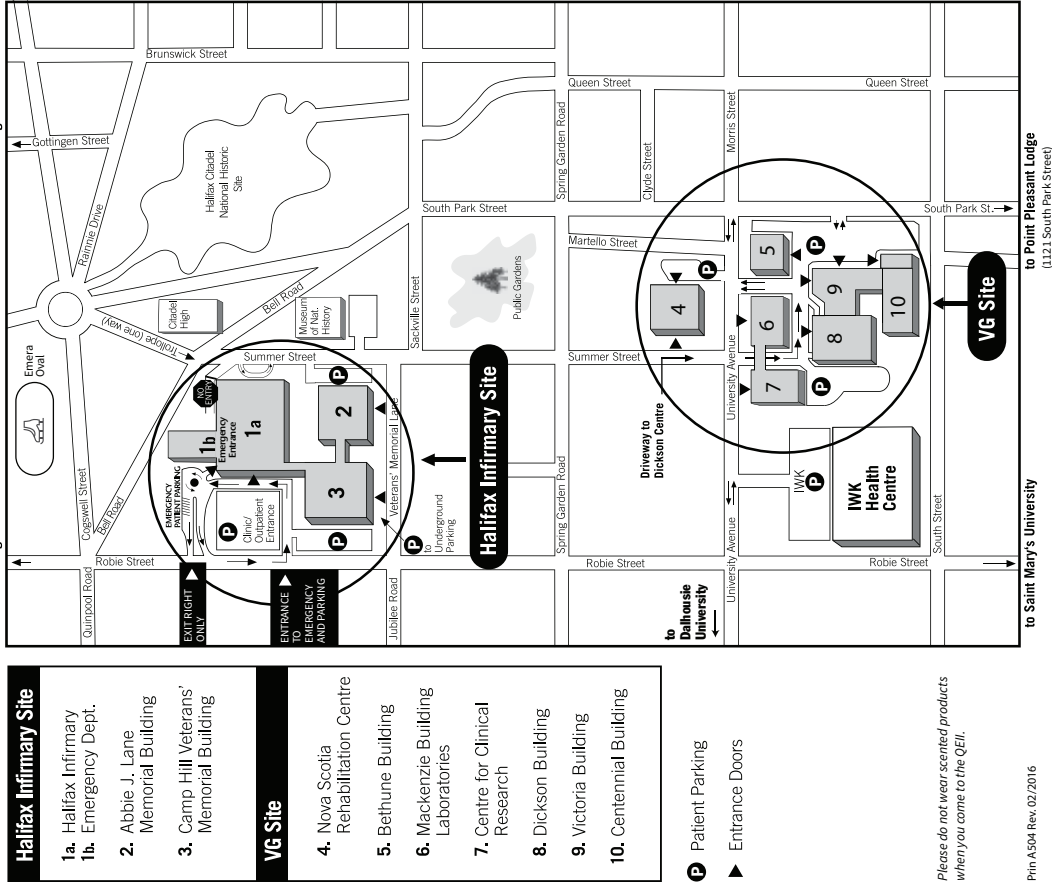


[www.nshealth.ca](http://www.nshealth.ca)



# QEII Health Sciences Centre

is made up of 10 buildings located on two sites



## Getting Ready for Eye Surgery

You may need to visit our Pre-Admission Clinic on the 10th floor of the Victoria Building, Victoria General (VG) site before your surgery. **If this is needed, your ophthalmologist's (eye doctor) office will call you.**

**Surgery date:** \_\_\_\_\_

## Where do I go?

Eye Surgery, 2nd floor, Centennial Building, VG site

**When should I arrive?** \_\_\_\_\_

This allows time for registration. The Pre-op nurse will talk to you to fill out your admission paperwork. To meet our patient safety standards, the nurse will ask you several questions that you may have already answered.

**Surgery time:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Anesthetic (medication to numb or freeze your eye before surgery) type:** \_\_\_\_\_

## Cancelling your surgery

Call Dr. \_\_\_\_\_  
at \_\_\_\_\_ if you must cancel  
your surgery.

If you are not able to reach your surgeon,  
please call Eye Surgery at **902-473-3730**.  
**Please give us as much notice as possible  
if you must cancel your surgery.**

## Getting ready

- If your home is not within a short travelling distance of the hospital, you may need to stay in the city overnight before and after your surgery. Please call Eye Surgery at **902-473-3730** if you need a place to stay. If you need accommodations, your eye surgeon's office will help you make arrangements.

- **You must have a responsible adult who can look after you for the first 24 hours (1 day) after surgery. Your surgery may be cancelled if you do not have someone that can stay with you after surgery.**

## Anesthetic

**If you are having a local anesthetic:**

- You will be awake during surgery.
- Your eye will be frozen so you will be comfortable during surgery.
- Before you go to the Operating Room (OR), an intravenous (IV) needle will be placed in your arm or hand to allow for medications to be given during your surgery.

**If you are having a general anesthetic:**

- You will be asleep during your surgery and will wake up in the recovery area.
- A nurse will check on you often.
- You will stay in the recovery area for about an hour. You will be taken back to the Eye Surgery area once you are fully recovered and discharged home with your driver (support person).

## What do I bring to the hospital?

- > **ALL** prescription medicines in their original containers
- > Over-the-counter medicines and herbal products
- > Provincial Health Card
- > Private insurance card, if you have one

**What are your questions? Please ask.**

**We are here to help you.**

**In Nova Scotia you can call 811 to talk with a registered nurse about your health care questions 24/7.**

- You will be given a prescription for eye drops either before surgery or right after. If you need help putting in the drops, please tell your eye surgeon's office **before your scheduled surgery date.**
- If you need home care (like VON [Victorian Order of Nurses Canada]), this must be arranged by your eye surgeon's office before your surgery.
- You will need someone to drive you to your follow-up visit with your eye surgeon later the same day or after surgery.

## Day before surgery

Call **902-473-3730** between noon and 2 p.m. to confirm the time of your surgery. If your surgery is on Monday, call to confirm on Friday.

## All patients who are having eye surgery:

- Follow any instructions your eye surgeon has given you.
- **Do not eat 8 hours before surgery.**
- **You may drink clear liquids (like water, apple juice) up to 3 hours before your surgery.**
- **Take your usual medications** (except medications for diabetes) with a sip of water.
  - > If you have diabetes, your eye surgeon's office will tell you what you may eat and drink and which medications to take.
  - > Call your eye surgeon's office if you are not sure which medications to take.

## Morning of surgery

### Scents

- Nova Scotia Health is scent-free. Please **DO NOT** use any perfumed or scented products.
- **Do not wear any face or eye makeup.**
- Wash your face very well.

### Valuables

- **Leave all valuables (such as jewelry, money, credit cards, cheque books) at home. The hospital is not responsible for the loss of any item.**
- You may keep your wedding ring on if you wish. **Wear your hearing aid(s).**
- Come prepared to pay for your lens on the day of your surgery. Payment can be received at the front desk or the business office. Our staff will tell you where to find these offices.