

Stephen J. Zabinski, MD  
Shore Orthopaedic University Associates  
24 MacArthur Blvd.  
Somers Point, NJ 08244  
609-927-1991

## **COMMUNICATION AFTER SURGERY**

Avoiding unnecessary hospital, emergency room or urgent care visits

---

We are here to help if there are problems after surgery... please call Dr. Zabinski's physician assistant Julie at 609-927-1991 ext. 243 with questions or problems. Yes, you most likely will have to leave a message and yes, she often may be in the OR or seeing patients so she may not answer your call immediately BUT she absolutely will call you back the same day of your call.

Also, if something is going on that is URGENT please call Dr. Zabinski's office at 609-927-1991 ext. 114. If you receive a voice mail, please leave a detailed message and a call back number. If you are calling outside of normal business hours, call our answering service at 609-568-2974. Again, please use these options only when it is an urgent medical matter NOT for routine questions. Expect a call back within an hour or so.

Please understand that urgent care centers and emergency rooms should be used only when ABSOLUTELY necessary. Obviously if a medical emergency such as significant shortness of breath, chest pain or change in mental status happens call 911 and/or get to the ER as soon as possible. If you do visit the emergency room please insist that the ER doctor speak DIRECTLY to Dr. Zabinski about your problem after it has been evaluated. The local emergency rooms all have a list with complete contact information for him.

Outside of these true medical emergencies however PLEASE let us evaluate your problem and decide if additional testing or medical evaluation is needed. Urgent care centers and emergency rooms may not be familiar with your surgical procedure and they may not be certain about what is normal and what is NOT normal after surgery. This can lead to unnecessary testing/ treatment or even an unnecessary hospital admission.

Your surgery is OUR surgery... and your outcome is very very important to us. Help us to take care of you after surgery by communicating what is going on and then giving us the opportunity to evaluate your concerns.

If, for whatever reason you don't hear from us after several calls or if your condition is worsening, your health is the most important thing and you should get medical care wherever possible. It is our expectation and goal that this will never occur.