

## Some of the Questions You May Want to Ask Your Surgeon

### About Alternatives, Timing, Risks, and Benefits:

- Why do I need this surgery?
- What are the alternatives to surgery?
- What are the risks, complications or side effects of this surgery?
- What are the risks of NOT having this surgery?
- How often do you do this kind of surgery?
- What kind of outcome is typical?
- How long am I likely to wait to have this surgery?
- Can I arrange to be contacted on short notice if a cancellation occurs?
- Am I likely to get worse in that time?
- Are there any symptoms that I might start having that indicate the need for me to go to emergency?
- What should I do if I change my mind about having the surgery, if I need to re-schedule, or if my condition improves and I no longer need surgery?

### Notes:

### **About Preparing for Surgery:**

- Can you describe to me what this procedure entails?
- What kind of scarring can I expect?
- What can I do now to decrease my risk and help speed my recovery?

### **Notes:**

### **About Surgery Day:**

- What kind of anesthetic will I be given?
- How long will I be in the Operating Room?
- How will my pain be managed after surgery?
- How will my diabetes (or other health condition) be managed during and after my procedure?
- When will I be able to eat and drink after surgery?

### **Notes:**

## About Staying in Hospital:

- How many nights should I plan on staying in the hospital?

### Notes:

## About Going Home:

- What type of incision care will I be expected to do after surgery?
- Who will take my stitches out?
- Are there any special instructions that will help speed my recovery?
- Will I need to arrange for help or home health services during my recovery?
- What type of follow-up care will I require?
- Will I need rehabilitation therapy after surgery?
- What prescriptions will I need to take following my surgery?
- Can I have my prescriptions filled prior to surgery so they are available when I return home?
- What is a normal recovery like after this procedure?
- When will I be able to return to my normal activities including exercise?
- When will I be able to return to work?

### Notes: