

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF ANESTHESIOLOGY



215 Klein Road  
Williamsville, NY 14221  
(716) 568-6100

Dear Patient,

Thank you for choosing Millard Fillmore Surgery Center, LLC for your surgical procedure. Our goal is to provide you with a safe and comfortable anesthesia experience. We wish to openly discuss with all our patients the risks of receiving anesthesia if you use certain medications or drugs. Please take a moment to review this important message from our anesthesiologists.

### HERBAL AND DIETARY SUPPLEMENTS

**What are herbs?** Herbs include flowering plants, shrubs, trees, moss, fern, algae, seaweed and fungus. In most cultures, herbs are used not only as a part of the treatment of disease, but also for physical, emotional and spiritual enhancement.

**What are dietary supplements?** By definition, a dietary supplement is a product taken by mouth and intended to improve your diet. These products many include: vitamins, minerals, herbs, or other botanicals, amino acids and substances such as enzymes, organ tissues, glandulars and metabolites.

**Are these products safe?** Sometimes, even if you take an herb or supplement for one reason, there can be other unintended reactions. **Natural doesn't necessarily mean safe.** Herbal and dietary products have chemical properties just as manufactured drugs do. Like anything that we ingest (eat) or apply to our skin, there can be side effects.

**Do I need to tell my doctor about all herbal products and dietary supplements that I take? YES!!!** It is absolutely essential that you tell your doctor about all treatments that you are using. These include the use of herbal medicines, vitamins, nutritional supplements or any other prescribed or over-the-counter drugs. Herbal products can cause harmful side effects or interact with your other medications.

**Could herbal medicines and other dietary supplements affect my anesthesia if I need surgery? YES!!!** There are certain herbal medicines and dietary supplements that react with anesthesia. Some make the effects of anesthesia last longer, some increase the risk of bleeding, or raise blood pressure. It is very important to tell your doctor, your anesthesiologist and your nurse what medications, herbal products and dietary supplements you are taking so they can provide the safest care possible.

### ILLEGAL DRUGS

The use of Cocaine in the week prior to anesthesia is known to cause many serious complications, which may include:

- DEATH
- Severe breathing difficulties
- Heart rhythm abnormalities which may include possible heart attack
- Brain damage
- Unwanted drug reactions

These complications could be brought on by anesthetics or worsened while under anesthesia if you chose to use cocaine in the week prior to surgery.

Our job is to administer anesthesia in the safest way possible, not to judge you in any way. Discussion of this information during your pre-admission visit or anytime before entering the operating room is very important and completely confidential. You may be asked to take a simple urine test, which is **strictly confidential**. The test results will NOT be disclosed to anyone other than you. This will not delay your surgery unless you test positive. If you test positive your results will be explained to you and your surgery will be cancelled.

We thank you for sharing the responsibility of caring for you and the opportunity to perform our duties as safely as possible.

With regards,

The Millard Fillmore Surgery Center, LLC Anesthesia Team