

## Frequently Asked Questions

### What are the roles of my care team?

Our skilled team performs surgical procedures and manages all pre- and post-surgical care needs. We have outlined the different roles and responsibilities of your care team below:

**Surgeons** – Surgery is a surgical subspecialty that primarily focuses on the abdominal organs, but also includes many other types of surgical procedures involving the breast, colon, rectal, skin, soft tissues, blood vessels, hernias and glands. Additionally, surgeons are trained in emergent, trauma and cancer surgery.

Our board-certified surgeons graduated from well-renowned medical schools and residency programs. Many have pursued additional fellowship training so that they can provide further expertise in different areas. Our surgeons specialize in minimally invasive/robotic procedures, hernia repairs, colorectal, breast, hepatobiliary and thyroid surgery.

**Physician Extenders (PEs)** – Also known as mid-level providers, include physician assistants (PA-C) and nurse practitioners (NP). These providers work closely with our surgeons and nurses. They are qualified to perform some of the same functions as physicians, including but not limited to: medical history intake, pre-operative and post-operative physical exams, patient education, minor office procedures and assisting in surgery. They can also order testing, imaging and medications when appropriate. PEs are under the supervision of your surgeon.

**Nurses** – We have a dedicated team of nurses who are trained to triage and manage many of our patient's concerns. Nurses can answer pre-operative and post-operative questions. If needed, they will assist you in obtaining any pre-operative clearances prior to surgery. They can also contact your provider directly to help facilitate your care.

### What should I bring to my first appointment?

Please bring your insurance card, photo ID and referral from your primary care provider (if required by your insurance). Please also bring any films, reports, and prior testing.

### What will happen at my first visit?

Once the registration process is complete, you will be escorted to an exam room where your surgeon will review the films and test results you brought to your appointment. Your surgeon will then examine you and discuss your treatment plan. At check out, follow-up appointments can be scheduled and payments due at the time of service will be collected. If surgery is recommended, you will review a surgical information packet with one of our clinical assistants.

### Where will my surgery be performed?

Procedures can be scheduled at varying hospital and ambulatory surgery center locations across Northern Virginia. Minor procedures may be performed in the office at your surgeon's discretion. Your care team will discuss the options with you.

**Where can I access patient forms, policies and billing information?**

Please visit [inoa.org/patients-visitors](https://www.inova.org/patients-visitors) to access patient forms and review other important information including patient rights, Inova policies and billing information.

**When should I see my primary care provider (PCP)?**

To maintain and optimize your health, it's important to establish an ongoing relationship with a primary care provider (PCP) whom you trust and work well with. Your PCP is your main healthcare contact in non-emergency situations. His or her main role is to provide you with comprehensive, preventive care. You should make an appointment with your primary care provider for:

- Regular physicals, prescription refills, vaccinations, and screenings
- General health maintenance and check-ups
- Management of chronic health issues such as diabetes, high blood pressure, high cholesterol, depression and anxiety
- Specialist referrals
- Any health problem for which you need advice

Inova VSA providers encourage patients to continue to follow-up with their PCP. If you do not have a PCP, Inova Primary Care promotes convenient patient access with same day appointments, extended hours and weekend availability. Call 1.855.IMG.DOCS (855.464.3627) for more information.