

GREEN MOUNTAIN SURGERY CENTER

Shared Decision-Making Policy

Policy

The Surgery Center is committed to establishing and maintaining high quality communications between Surgery Center patients and physicians in connection with determining treatment options. Accordingly, the Surgery Center requires each of its physicians to engage in Shared Decision-Making with Surgery Center patients.

Background

“Shared Decision-Making” is a process in which a patient (or patient’s representative) and the patient’s Surgery Center physician discuss the patient’s health condition or disease, the treatment options available for that condition or disease, the benefits and harms of each treatment option, information on the limits of scientific knowledge on patient outcomes from the treatment options, and the patient’s value and preferences for treatment, with the use of a patient decision aid.

When the physician shares with the patient relevant risk and benefit information on treatment options, and the patient shares with the physician all relevant personal information that might make one treatment more appropriate than the others, the physician learns how the patient views the risks and benefits of the various options and what issues are most relevant to the patient. The physician then can help the patient think about risks and benefits in terms of the values and preferences the patient has expressed, and together, the physician and patient can use the shared information to come to a mutually acceptable decision.

A “Patient Decision Aid” is an interactive, written, audio-visual, or online tool that provides a balanced presentation of the condition and treatment options, benefits and harms, including a discussion of the limitations of scientific knowledge about outcomes (if appropriate). Patient Decision Aids may include, but are not limited to, educational booklets, videos, and on-line interactive tools that can be used by patients on their own time, or during an appointment with the physician. A Patient Decision Aid is intended to complement, rather than replace, direct counseling from and conversation with the physician.

Surgery Center Requirements

- Each physician is required to engage in Shared Decision-Making that: (a) fully informs the patient of the benefits and risks of all care alternatives; (b) incorporates the best available scientific evidence; (c) takes into account the patient’s values, goals and preferences; and (d) advises the patient of the pros and cons, including the comparative

costs, of having the procedure performed in an ambulatory surgery center, rather than a hospital.

- Each physician, in his/her sole professional judgment, may select the Patient Decision Aid that in the physician's professional opinion best suits the patient and the patient's disease or condition.
- Each physician is required to certify his/her compliance with this Policy.

Policy Adoption and Web Posting

Adopted by the Board of Managers on: _____March 13____, 2018

Posted to the Surgery Center website on: _____March 13____, 2018