



## **Driving After Surgery**

A very common concern among patients is when will they be cleared for driving. Any decision regarding returning to driving must take into account several issues. These include:

1. Recovery from the surgical procedure.
2. Recovery from anesthesia (sedation)
3. Impairment due to pain medication (i.e., No driving while on prescription pain medication)
4. Physical restrictions due to the surgery.
5. Overall condition of the patient.

Regardless, we cannot give actual CLEARANCE to drive. That is a personal decision with some general guidelines. Remember you have a personal responsibility to yourself and to those around you to operate a motor vehicle *safely*. This includes the ability to make an emergency stop.

It is the responsibility of the driver to ensure that he/she is in control of the vehicle at all times and to be able to demonstrate that is so, if stopped by the police.

It might also be reasonable for the driver to check his/her insurance policy before returning to drive after surgery.