DA VINCI RADICAL NEPHRECTOMY OR PARTIAL NEPHRECTOMY:

This surgery usually requires a 1 - 3 day hospitalization following surgery with general anesthesia. Five small incisions are required. Bowel prep is required the day before surgery, and you will not eat or drink anything for at least 8 hours prior to surgery. Morning medications (except diabetic meds) can be taken with a sip of water. Do not take blood thinners, aspirin, NSAIDS, for 7 - 10 days prior to surgery. You will go home with staples or Derma bond on your incisions. Occasionally, urinary drainage tubes, Foley catheters are required for a few days, rarely are other tubes or drains required. Patients are independent to walk from the car to their home and around their homes at time of discharge.

POST SURGICAL INSTRUCTIONS:

Remove the dressings and shower 48 hours after surgery - clean the incisions with soap and water, dry well and keep them open to air or replace light gauze dressing if you desire. Applying Neosporin ointment to the wound is optional.

Check your temperature several times a day, temperatures up to 100.4 are normal post-surgery due to healing. For an elevated temperature, take Tylenol 650 mg and call the office to speak with the NP or MD.

Stay on clear liquids until you pass gas, then soft foods until you have a bowel movement. Eat nutritiously to promote healing. Maintain normal bowel function with over the counter laxatives such as Senna, Milk of Magnesia, or MiraLax. Colace is a stool softener that is terrific.

Expect pink/red urine with small clots intermittently. Call the office for red blood that is constant in the urine, and thick clots. Drinking water, at least 64 ounces per day to flush the bladder of this
blood is helpful; resting intermittently in between activity is recommended.

Resume your old medications upon discharge and start the medications we have given you - pain medication to be taken if needed, and antibiotics are sometimes given.

Your post-operative appointment in the office is usually 7 days after surgery. We will remove the staples, review the pathology report and plan for your continued follow up and treatment if required at that time. Please bring an interpreter or family member to listen to instructions with you. This is always helpful.

Most patients can return to work in 2 - 3 weeks if they have a desk job. No lifting over 8 lbs, pushing, pulling, bending, straining for one month. No athletics for 6 weeks. Please consult the NP or MD about return to work if you lift heavy objects or perform heavy labor.

Please have your Disability paperwork completed and ready for the MD to complete and sign at your post-operative appointment. Our receptionists up front are very good about getting these papers completed properly and signed. We also need you to put appropriate postage on them to be ready to mail.

Call the office (805) 643-4067 with questions that are urgent and can't wait for your office appointment. If you have an emergency, go to the Community Memorial Hospital Emergency Dept.