**Surgeries and Hospitalization**

Rationale

Provinces provide for the holistic care of the sick and aged.

As local community, we create an atmosphere conducive to the health and well-being of each member. Each sister assumes responsibility to take reasonable care of her health. We provide care for our sick, convalescing, and aged sisters and show them special love and concern.

Process:

1. When a physician recommends surgery, the sister assumes responsibility for understanding the scope of the surgery, risks, benefits and recovery process. She is encouraged to discuss the following questions with her physician/surgeon:
   1. Why do I need this surgery?
   2. Are there any alternatives to surgery?
   3. What are the specific risks associated with this surgery?
   4. What is the recovery process after this surgery?
   5. What can I do to prepare for this surgery?
   6. Will I need help at home after surgery?
   7. Will I be able to drive?
   8. When will I be able to return to work/normal activity?
2. The sister then contacts her Wellness Coordinator who will assist the sister in pre/post hospitalization planning.
3. The sister communicates with her local community, discussing and identifying:
   1. where and when the surgery will take place
   2. who will accompany her at the hospital on the day of surgery
   3. who will notify a community contact after surgery is completed
4. After surgery, the hospital discharge planner, in dialogue with the sister and the Wellness Coordinator will plan for appropriate post hospitalization care. Options discussed may include:
   1. Returning to her residence independently or with supportive care.
   2. Moving temporarily to a rehabilitation or skilled care facility.
   3. Moving temporarily to a congregational care facility.
5. The sister and Wellness Coordinator share responsibility for keeping the sister’s Provincial Council informed.

IN THE CASE OF EMERGENCY SURGERY/HOSPITALIZATION THE SISTER’S EMERGENCY CONTACT SHOULD NOTIFY A MEMBER OF THE PROVINCIAL TEAM.