

### Reducing Risks and Complications of Surgical Procedures:

1. Research information about your surgery on the internet and at the library—many hospitals have libraries that you can utilize. Check with yours.
2. Create a list of all the risks and complications associated with the procedure and ask your surgeon/physician:
  - a. What risks and/or complications have you encountered?
  - b. How often?
3. Check your physician's credentials and history with their state's Medical Board (i.e., in AZ go to [www.azmd.gov](http://www.azmd.gov))
4. Obtain a second or third opinion before committing.
5. Ask if there are alternatives to the procedure and what risks are associated with each.
6. Ask if your surgeon will actually be doing the surgery or be in the room to advise/monitor.
7. Make sure you have a family member or loved one to stay with you at the hospital after your surgery to ensure that you receive the appropriate care. (SEE Patient Advocate for more info)
8. Ask questions if you don't understand or you are uncertain.
9. If you experience problems with your care while in the hospital, ask for the Charge Nurse or Risk manager. Also, have your Patient Advocate document in writing any problems.