Swedish Structural Heart and Valve Disease Program

Severe aortic stenosis is a condition which can be treated with a catheter based procedure called Transcatheter Aortic Valve Replacement (TAVR). The catheter is used to implant a new aortic valve within your diseased valve and is an alternative to open heart surgery.

TRANS expire AORTIC VALVE REPLACEMENT (TAVR)

**STEP 1: REFERRAL** to Swedish Structural Heart Program

**STEP 2: CHART REVIEW** and Insurance Prior Authorization

**STEP 3: INTRODUCTION CALL** from our staff to briefly explain TAVR and evaluation process

**STEP 4: TAVR EVALUATION** (One to three visits at Swedish Cherry Hill)

- **CT Scan (60 minutes)** – This is done at Swedish Cherry Hill to obtain clear and detailed pictures of your heart and blood vessels. This involves the injection of contrast dye in an IV.
- **Carotid Ultrasound (60 minutes)** – This is done to examine blood flow in your carotid arteries, which deliver blood from your heart to your brain. Can often be completed locally.
- **Blood Work** – This is needed from within 60 days of the start of testing and can be completed locally.
- **Patient Education (30 minutes)** – You will meet with one of our nurses to discuss what you can expect before, during and after your TAVR.
- **Consultations** – You will meet with both an interventional cardiologist **AND** cardiac surgeon to discuss your heart condition and potential treatment options.
- **Cardiac Catheterization** – This is done by an interventional cardiologist to check for blockages in the arteries of your heart.
- **Dental Clearance** – This is needed to ensure you have had a dental examination in the past six months and are free of any infection. If you have not been seen by a dentist in the last six months, we ask that you schedule an appointment to be seen.
- **Occasionally, additional evaluation will be needed.**

**STEP 5: TAVR CONFERENCE** – Once your testing is complete, your care plan will be discussed at a weekly meeting of your treatment team to formulate your appropriate care plan. We will contact you within a week of this conference and review your care plan and next steps.
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: Is TAVR right for me?
A: The purpose of the evaluation process is to develop the best treatment plan for each of our patients. The evaluation process is necessary to determine your eligibility and best next steps. We will provide recommendations based on your testing outcome.

Q: Who can I contact with questions regarding my evaluation?
A: Our team is with you every step of the way! You can call our TAVR hotline with any questions/concerns you may have.

Q: Does my evaluation need to take place at Swedish Cherry Hill?
A: The CT scan must be completed at Swedish to evaluate your candidacy for TAVR. On occasion, other tests are able to be arranged locally for your convenience.

Q: I live far away/out of state — can these tests be scheduled at the same time?
A: Yes! We oftentimes care for patients who travel a great distance and we are happy to discuss options and schedule your appointments to accommodate what works best for your travel schedule.

Q: When can I expect to be scheduled for TAVR after I’m referred by a doctor?
A: There are a number of factors which influence how quickly your procedure can be scheduled. Because of this, scheduling times can vary.

To learn more, please visit Swedish.org/structuralheart or call our TAVR Hotline at 206-320-8100.