Whipple Surgery

The goal of this program is to provide an overview of Whipple surgery. The program covers:

**Your Body**
- Review of digestive anatomy and physiology

**Pancreatic Cancer**
- Cancer most common reason for Whipple procedure (can also be used for chronic pancreatitis)
- Overview of what cancer is
- Impact of cancerous tumors on pancreas and bile duct
- Whipple surgery overview:
  - Surgery removes: part of pancreas, the gallbladder, part of the bile duct, part of the small intestine, and sometimes part of the stomach

**Before Your Surgery**
- Importance of sharing complete medical history – health conditions, allergies, list of current medications, tobacco use
- Special considerations for anticoagulant medications
- Establishing a point person to bring along for support on day of surgery
- Possibility of bowel prep and special skin prep

**Your Surgery**
- IV placement, possible epidural, connection to monitors to measure vital signs, possible use of compression boots
- Step-by-step explanation of Whipple procedure (voice narration & animated medical illustration)
- Likelihood of drains and surgical staples or stitches to finish surgery
After Your Surgery
- Likelihood and purpose of wound drains, urinary catheter, and NG/J/G tubes
- Overview of common pain management post Whipple – PCA, epidural, oral pain medications
- Overview of early recovery practices: ambulation, deep breathing/incentive spirometer
- Discharge to home or nursing facility
- General activity restrictions following surgery
- General dietary guidelines following surgery
- Overview of general recovery timeframe
- Warning signs and when to call your doctor

Risks and Benefits & Alternatives

Please note: This program is designed for patients scheduled for or considering a Whipple procedure. If you have any questions about this Emmi program, please contact your Emmi representative.