

## **Abdominal Exploration or Exploratory Laporotomy Information Sheet**

### ***General indications for the proposed procedure/treatment:***

This procedure is generally done to diagnose disease and health problems of the abdominal or pelvic organs which include:

- Gallbladder
- Kidneys, ureters, and bladder
- Large intestine (colon)
- Liver
- Pancreas
- Small intestine (jejunum and ileum)
- Spleen
- Stomach
- Uterus, fallopian tubes, and ovaries

### ***Description of Procedure:***

An abdominal exploration or exploratory laporotomy is generally done under general anesthesia, which means the patient is asleep and feels no pain during the procedure. The surgeon makes a cut into the abdomen or pelvis and examines the abdominal organs or pelvic organs. The size and location of the surgical cut depends on the specific health issue. A biopsy can be taken during the procedure.

### ***Risks of the Procedure/Surgery:***

The risks of the procedure include, but are not limited to, bleeding (which may require transfusion), infection, blood clots, and/or death. Nearby organs, blood vessels, and veins may also be damaged during this procedure.

### ***Procedure Alternatives, if any:***

There are no alternatives to this procedure.

### ***Probable consequences of Refusing Procedure:***

The probable consequence of refusing this procedure is the inability to accurately diagnose acute or chronic abdominal or pelvic problems.

### ***Person(s) Performing the Procedure:***

The key portions of the procedure will be performed by a physician who is a member of the medical staff of Rush University Medical Center and/or a resident/fellow who is observed by a physician who is a member of the medical staff. Residents/Fellows are licensed physicians in approved residency or post residency training programs. Parts of the procedure which they perform will be based on their level of competency.