AS SEEN IN GOOD HOUSEKEEPING woman's day

WESTERN NEW YORK'S LEADING SURGEONS



FROM LEFT: Robert Armstrong, MD; Matthew Behringer, DO; Kenneth Eckhert III, MD; Richard Bloomberg, MD; and Rurik Johnson, MD. Photos by Nadine Saviano Photography.

Providing Top-Notch Surgical Care in Western New York

A private general surgery practice since 1980, Surgical Associates of Western New York, PC is one of the few remaining independent, patient-centered practices in the region. The practice is led by partners Dr. Robert Armstrong, Dr. Matthew Behringer, Dr. Richard Bloomberg, Dr. Kenneth Eckhert, and Dr. Rurik Johnson, who are dedicated to providing exceptional surgical care with a personal touch.

For nearly 50 years, local surgeons have been offering patients the highest quality of care at Surgical Associates of Western New York, PC (SAWNY). Offering a wide range of services from gallbladder, appendix, and hernia surgeries to hemorrhoid treatments, abscess care, lipoma removal, colonoscopies, acid reflux, and GERD, every procedure at SAWNY is customized for a patient's unique situation.

With standalone locations across Western New York and a major presence in Catholic Health hospitals, SAWNY is accessible to patients throughout the region and surrounding areas. In late 2026, SAWNY opened a new Williamsville location and added a new surgeon to the team, Dr. Benjamin Khechen. As the practice continues to grow, its surgeons remain committed to upholding the highest standard of care for patients.



Advancements in Care

Specializing in advanced surgical care and technology, SAWNY is a local leader in minimally invasive, laparoscopic, and robotic surgeries. "These options make for more efficient patient care, smaller incision sites, and quicker recovery time," says Practice Administrator Clarissa Ackman. "Most patients begin recovery and resume activity within a day or two of their surgery."

Fast, convenient access to care is another big differentiator between SAWNY and other surgical practices. SAWNY patients are often seen for initial consults and treatment within 24 to 48 hours, which means they spend less time waiting in pain or discomfort and more time heading toward healing.

"From consult to medical clearance, pretesting, and surgery, patients can be finished with the whole process in as little as four weeks, so they can get on with their lives," says Ackman.

Win-Win-Win

Taking a personal approach is key to SAWNY's success. Patients who choose SAWNY receive personalized care from their surgeon throughout the entire process. "Our surgeons take time to answer questions and speak directly to patients," says HR and Financial Specialist Karie Dipirro.

At SAWNY, patient support extends far beyond the operating room. When patients call the office, they always get a person rather than navigating through automated systems. "Our staff genuinely care and patients can feel that care, even over the phone," says Dipirro.

The practice has a collaborative partnership with Catholic Health, allowing SAWNY physicians to provide care across the health system's hospitals. In addition, Dr. Kenneth Eckhert III serves as Chair of Surgery for Catholic Health System and Buffalo Mercy Hospital while Dr. Richard Bloomberg is Associate Chair of Surgery at Sisters of Charity Hospital. Together, the partnership combines the personalized experience of an independent practice with the resources and capabilities of a major health system.

The SAWNY team also extends its commitment to Western New York beyond the walls of the practice. Physicians and staff support local charities, community organizations, and fellow small businesses.



In September 2026, Dr. Benjamin Khechen became the newest surgeon to join the team at SAWNY. Born and raised in Buffalo, he earned his medical degree from SUNY Upstate Medical University and the Alan and Marlene Norton College of Medicine before returning home. He is excited to provide high-quality surgical care to patients throughout the Western New York community.

SURGICAL ASSOCIATES of Western New York, PC

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