



**YOUR TOTAL JOINT 101 ORTHOPEDIC  
GUIDE FOR KNEE REPLACEMENT**



*Moving you to  
a better tomorrow...*



# Welcome

The team at Baylor Orthopedic and Spine Hospital at Arlington looks forward to assisting you in your journey toward an improved level of activity and higher quality of life following your joint replacement surgery.

Each year, over 500,000 people in the U.S. undergo total joint replacement surgery. Typically, candidates for this surgery are individuals with chronic joint pain from arthritis that severely diminishes their ability to perform normal daily activities. This often leads to a loss of independence and self esteem. A replacement joint can make a big difference in your ability to return to work or other activities that you enjoy.

Total joint replacement patients usually recover quickly. The hospital stay is typically 2-3 days. New surgical techniques and improved analgesic methods have allowed us to quicken the recovery process. In fact, most patients will be expected to walk on the day of surgery.

Quick recovery usually allows the return to most activities in six to eight weeks for motivated individuals. This includes driving, walking distances, swimming and golfing. How quickly you return to normal activity is highly dependent upon your preoperative physical conditioning. The better your physical condition is prior to surgery, the quicker your recovery to more normal activity will be.

Patients who take an active role in their recovery experience the most positive results. This patient Orthopedic Guide is designed to give you the information needed to inform and guide you to a safe and successful surgical outcome.

**It's a joint effort at Baylor Orthopedic and Spine Hospital at Arlington and we appreciate the opportunity to assist you on your road to recovery, to a better tomorrow.**

## Important:

**Bring this Orthopedic Guide with you to every appointment and to the hospital.**

### Schedule of Appointments

**Patient Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Surgeon's Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**SURGERY** **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Time:** \_\_\_\_\_

**PRE-OP CLASS** **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Time:** \_\_\_\_\_

**PHYSICIAN CLEARANCE** \_\_\_\_\_

**PRE-OP SURGEON VISIT** **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Time:** \_\_\_\_\_

**POST-OP VISIT WITH SURGEON** **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Time:** \_\_\_\_\_

**POST DISCHARGE THERAPY** **Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone #:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Please bring with you:**

- Physician's orders if they have not already sent them to the hospital
- Insurance/Medicare cards and photo ID (driver's license)
- List of all previous surgeries
- All current medications or a list with names and doses
- Emergency contact information, names with phone numbers

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## The Orthopedic Team

### Features of the team approach to joint replacement

- A dedicated team of physicians on the medical staff, physician assistants, nurses, patient care technicians, case managers, and physical therapists who specialize in the care of joint replacement patients.
- Comprehensive patient education prior to surgery
- A comprehensive patient Orthopedic Guide for you to follow from two to three weeks before surgery until several weeks after surgery.
- Emphasis on Physical Therapy, as well as individualized care.



### Goals of the team approach to joint replacement

- Improve patient's quality of life
- Increase quality of patient care
- Increase patient satisfaction
- Improve outcomes / minimize problems
- Increase patient knowledge of events to come
- Reduce length of hospital stay
- Increase public awareness of program

## Value and Purpose of a Coach

Every patient can benefit from the assistance and motivation of a Coach. Your Coach can be your spouse, family member or close friend.

The value of enlisting a Coach is to speed your recovery. A Coach can help to build your confidence, offer support, improve your results, and ultimately get you home earlier.

Your Coach should be reliable, and someone who is available to attend education sessions with you, be actively involved with your care, help with your therapy, even drive you home from the hospital and help you once you return home.



## Purpose of the Orthopedic Guide

This Orthopedic Guide is designed to educate you so that you know:

- What to expect every step of the way
- What you need to do
- How to care for your new joint

**Remember this is just a guide.** Your orthopedic team may add to this or change many of the recommendations. Always use their recommendations first and ask questions if you are unsure of any information. Keep your Orthopedic Guide as a handy reference for at least the first year after your surgery.

**Bring this Orthopedic Guide with you to every appointment and to the hospital!**

## Answers to Frequently Asked Questions About Total Knee Replacement Surgery

### What is arthritis and why does my knee hurt?

In the knee joint there is a layer of smooth cartilage on the lower end of the femur (thigh bone), the upper end of the tibia (shinbone), and the undersurface of the kneecap (patella). This cartilage serves as a cushion and allows for smooth motion of the knee. Arthritis is a wearing away of this cartilage. Eventually it wears down to bone. Rubbing of bone against bone causes discomfort, swelling and stiffness.

### What is Total Knee Replacement?

Your replacement knee joint will be made of various materials (including metal and plastic) depending on your particular needs. The new joint, called a prosthesis, consists of a metal cover and a plastic piece with a metal stem.

Your surgeon will make an incision (cut) on the front of your knee; the end of your femur (thigh bone) is trimmed and resurfaced with a metal cover or shell. The end of the tibia (lower leg bone) is trimmed and resurfaced with a plastic and metal implant.

The surgery takes about two hours, but a successful knee replacement begins long before you enter the hospital.



### When should I have this type of surgery?

Your orthopedic surgeon will determine if you are a candidate for the surgery. This will be based on your history, physical exam, x-rays and response to conservative treatment. The decision will then be yours.

## Am I too old for this surgery?

Age is not a problem if you are in reasonable health and have the desire to continue living a productive and active life. You may be asked to see your primary care physician for their opinion about your general health and readiness for surgery.

## How long will my new knee last, and can a second replacement be done?

All implants have a limited life expectancy depending on an individual's age, weight, activity level and medical condition(s). We expect most knees to last more than 15-20 years. However, there is no guarantee, and 10-15 percent may not last that long. A second replacement or revision may be necessary.

## Why might I require a revision?

Just as your original joint wears out, a joint replacement will wear out over time as well. The most common reason for a revision is loosening of the artificial surface from bone. Wearing of the plastic bearing may also result in the need for a new bearing. Persistent instability of the knee may require revision. Your surgeon will explain the possible complications associated with knee replacement surgery.

## What are the major risks?

Your surgeon will discuss the risks of surgery with you. Infections and blood clots are two risks. To minimize these risks, we use antibiotics and blood thinners. We also take special precautions in the operating room to reduce the risk of infections. The chance of infection is small, but it can occur even many years after surgery. In addition, there is the possibility of dislocation, leg length discrepancy, persistent limp, permanent nerve and artery injury and significant blood loss. Although rare, stroke, heart attack and death have occurred with this surgery.



## How long will I be in the hospital?

Most knee patients are hospitalized for three days.

## Where will my scar be?

The scar will be straight down the center of your knee unless you have previous scars, in which case we may use the prior scar. There may be some skin numbness around the scar.

## How long will I be in recovery right after surgery?

We anticipate that you will get out of bed and walk the day of surgery. The next morning you will get up, sit in a recliner and will be walking with a walker. Most patients are on their way to normal activity by six weeks after surgery.

## Will I need help at home?

Our program is designed for patients to have an assistant or “Coach” to help them at home. For the first several days or weeks, depending on your progress, you will benefit from someone to assist you with meal preparation, etc. The case manager will arrange for outpatient therapy or home health if appropriate. Your “Coach” needs to be available to help if possible. Preparing ahead of time, before your surgery, can minimize the amount of help needed. Having the laundry done, house cleaned, yard work completed, clean linens on the bed, and single portion frozen meals will reduce the need for extra help.



## Will I need a walker or cane?

Most patients will use a walker for about 2 weeks and then a cane for 2-4 additional weeks.

## What if I live alone?

Most patients leave the hospital independent enough to function at home without great assistance. If you are frail or ill, two options are available to you.

**Option 1:** A home health nurse and/or a home physical therapist may be

arranged to assist you at home. You should make all attempts to arrange for a relative or friend to stay with you for at least the first week after discharge because the home health nurse and physical therapist are with you for only a short period of the day.

**Option 2:** You may either stay at an acute rehabilitation facility following your hospital stay provided you meet insurance criteria and your insurance will cover this. Insurance/Medicare does not cover inpatient rehabilitation for “social issues.”

### Will I need Physical Therapy when I go home?

Yes. Patients are encouraged to utilize outpatient physical therapy as soon as possible. However, in certain situations your orthopedic team will help you arrange for an outpatient physical therapy appointment. The length of time required for this type of therapy varies with each patient.

### When can I take a shower?

Usually a plastic protective dressing is applied to your wound to cover the staples and incision on the first post-op day. You may shower once this dressing is in place. You may not go into a pool, bath, or hot tub until you have been advised to do so by your surgeon.

### How long until I can drive and resume normal activities?

You need to be off of all narcotic medications, and no longer requiring a walker to legally be permitted to drive a motor vehicle. The ability to drive depends on whether surgery was on your right leg or your left leg, and the type of car you have. If the surgery was on your left leg and you have an automatic transmission, you could be driving at two weeks. If the surgery was on your right leg, your driving could be restricted as long as six weeks.

Getting “back to normal” will depend greatly on your preoperative physical condition and what you consider to be normal activity. Consult with your surgeon or therapist for their advice on your activity.

### When will I be able to get back to work?

We recommend that most people take at least one month off from work, unless their jobs are quite sedentary. A therapist can make recommendations for joint protection and energy conservation on the job.

### **When can I have sexual intercourse?**

The time to resume sexual intercourse should be discussed with your partner when cleared by your physician.

### **Do you recommend any restrictions following this surgery?**

Yes. High-impact activities, such as running, singles tennis and basketball are not recommended. Injury-prone contact sports such as downhill skiing are also dangerous for the new joint. Common sense applies here.

### **What physical / recreational activities may I participate in after my recovery?**

You are encouraged to participate in low-impact activities such as walking, dancing, golfing, hiking, swimming, bowling and gardening.

### **Will I notice anything different about my knee?**

Yes. You will have a small area of numbness to the outside of the scar, which will be permanent. Kneeling may be uncomfortable for a year or more. Some patients notice clicking or “noise” when they move their knee. This is the result of the artificial surfaces coming together and is usually NOT indicative of a serious problem.

### **Will I still have pain after my recovery?**

Long-term results after surgery are very good, providing significantly improved function for most patients. Few patients, however, have persistent pain that may be permanent.

## **Pre-Operative To Do List**

### **Contact your insurance company**

Before surgery, we will be contacting your insurance carrier to inquire whether authorization, pre-certification, second opinion, or a referral form is required.

### Pre-register

You will need to pre- register in the admitting department of the hospital prior to your surgery day.

**Please bring the following information with you when you pre-register:**

- Current medication list
- Your insurance card
- Advance Directives, and Living Will if you have one
- Photo I.D.

### Medications

- Discontinue the use of Aspirin, Aspirin-like products, herbal medication, non-steroidal anti-inflammatory medications one week prior to your surgery. This will be discussed at your pre-surgical consultation.
- If you are on a blood thinner such as Coumadin, please the pre-admission nurse know so appropriate arrangements can be made prior to surgery.
- Please do not take your usual morning prescription medications on the morning of your surgery unless instructed by your primary care physician and then only take the medication with a small sip of water.

### If your surgeon has told you to donate your own blood

Call your local blood bank to arrange for this. You may start donating blood 3 weeks before your surgery.

**Note:** *The blood bank may charge a fee for this service depending on your insurance coverage.*

### If you need any dental work

Ask your orthopedic surgeon, who may recommend the dental work be completed before surgery to reduce the chance of infection after your surgery.

### Eat a healthy diet

A balanced diet is important for your general health and healing.

**Quit smoking:**

Speak with your doctor about quitting smoking, or call 1-800-NO-BUTTS (1-800-662-8887).

**Medical clearance**

Your surgeon's office will schedule you for a medical clearance with your primary care physician. This appointment is extremely important and must not be canceled. Without pre-operative medical clearance, your surgeon will not perform the surgery.

*Please remember to check with the your primary care physician for special instructions on medications that you take routinely, such as heart medications, Insulin, Coumadin, etc.*

## Pre-Operative Exercises

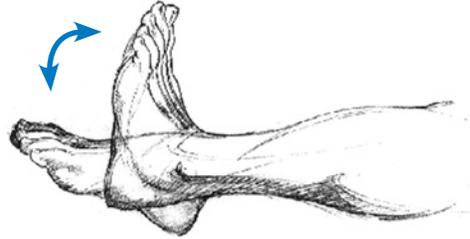
Many patients with arthritis favor their joints and thus become weaker. This interferes with their recovery. It is important to be as fit as possible before undergoing a total joint replacement. This will make your recovery much faster. It is important that you begin an exercise program before surgery.

Nine exercises are shown here that you should start doing now and continue until your surgery. You should be able to do them in 15-20 minutes, and it is recommended that you do all of them twice a day. It is not harmful for you to do more. Consider this a minimum amount of exercise prior to your surgery.

Also, remember that you need to strengthen your entire body, not just your legs. It is very important that you strengthen your arms by doing chair pushups, because you will be relying on your arms to help you walk, get in and out of bed, and in and out of a chair.

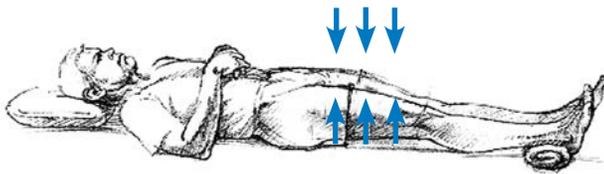
***Note:** Do 10 sets of each of the following exercises twice a day, unless your doctor tells you otherwise.*

Exercising is very important. It brings back your strength to walk and to get well faster. You may exercise any time you want, but do at least 2-3 times a day.



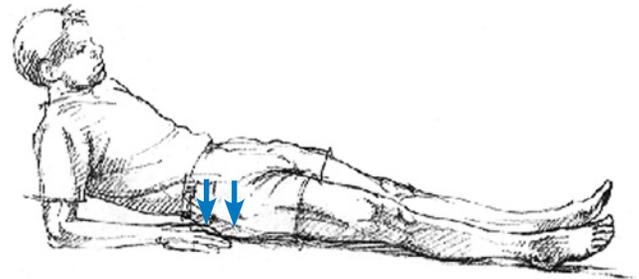
### Ankle Pumps

Bend ankles to move feet up and down, alternating feet.



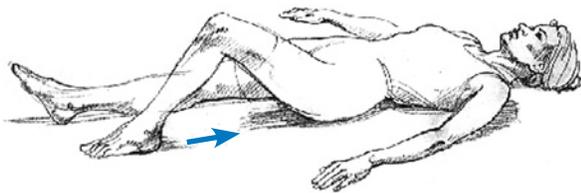
### Quad Sets

Slowly tighten muscles on thigh of one leg while counting out loud to 10. Repeat with other leg to complete set.



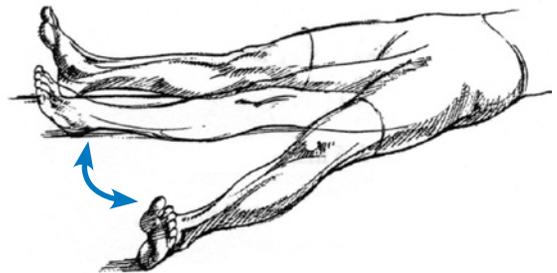
### Gluteal Squeezes

Squeeze buttocks muscles as tightly as possible while counting out loud to 10.



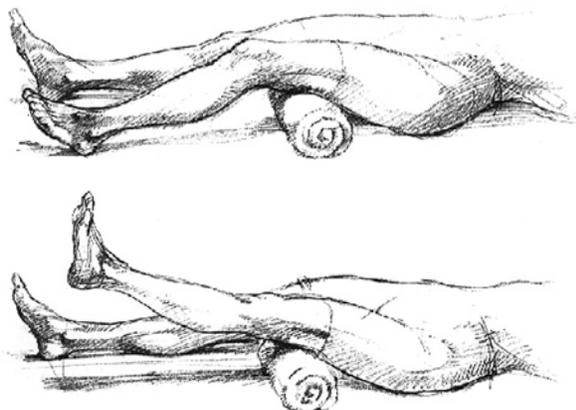
### Heel Slides

Make sure bed is flat. Bend knee and pull heel toward buttocks. Hold for 10 seconds. Return. Repeat with other knee to complete set.



### Hip Abduction

Keep your toes pointed toward the ceiling. Move your leg out to the side as far as possible. Slowly return to the starting position and relax.



### Short Arc Quads

Place a rolled towel under your knee. Raise the lower part of your leg until your knee is straight. Hold for 10 seconds.



### Long Arc Quads

Straighten one leg and hold it for 10 seconds. Repeat with other leg.



### Straight Leg Raises

Bend one leg. Keep other leg as straight as possible and tighten muscles on top of thigh. Slowly lift straight leg 10 inches from bed and hold for 10 seconds. Lower it, keeping muscles tight for 10 seconds. Relax. Repeat with other leg.



### Knee Slides

Slowly slide your foot forward in front of you until a stretch is felt in the knee and hold for 10 seconds. Then slide your foot back as far as you can and hold for 10 seconds.

## Before Your Surgery

A little planning before you leave home will help you while you're in the hospital and when you get back home.

### Plan for your return home

1. Plan easy meals in advance. Do your grocery shopping, prepare and freeze meals, and put cooking utensils where they are easy to reach. Make simple meals that will be ready for you when you get home.
2. Organize your kitchen so that supplies are at shoulder or waist level to avoid excessive lifting, bending or reaching.
3. If you have stairs at home, count your stairs. When you come to the hospital, tell your physical therapist how many stairs you have and if you have a railing, or prepare a room downstairs if you live in a two-story house to reduce the amount of stair climbing.
4. Clear your house of obstacles and remove any throw rugs for safe walking. Many patients use a walker after leaving the hospital. This means you need more room to move around your home.
5. Have a firm chair that has armrests available to use after surgery. You should not sit in a chair that rocks, rolls, or swivels.
6. Place a non-skid bath mat in your tub or shower.
7. For convenience, you can place items that you use every day at arm level (between your waist and shoulders).
8. Small pets can be an obstacle for your walker.
9. Arrange for help from a friend or family member to assist with housekeeping, shopping or driving.

### What to bring to the Hospital

- Personal hygiene items (toothbrush, deodorant, battery operated razor, denture care products, hearing aids and battery, contact lenses, cases and solution) that you may need should be brought from home.
- You must bring LOOSE fitting clothing. Shorts with either elastic or tie waist bands are required. Long pants won't work well here.

- You will be having Physical Therapy twice a day. You will be dressed in these clothes for the major part of your hospital stay.
- Well fitting pair of tennis shoes or walking shoes (non-skid) for discharge.

## The night before surgery

**You must also do the following – check off when completed:**

- Bring your patient Orthopedic Guide to the hospital.
- Bring a copy of your advance directives if you have them.\*
- Bring a list of your medications, including dosages.
- Bring your insurance card and driver's license or photo ID
- Bring any co-payment required by your insurance company.
- Please leave jewelry, valuables, and large amounts of money at home.
- Do not wear any makeup.

*\* The law requires that everyone being admitted to a medical facility have the opportunity to make advance directives, concerning future decisions regarding their medical care. Although you are not required to do so, you may make the directives you desire. If you have advance directives, please bring copies to the hospital on the day of surgery.*

- You may eat your regular diet until the night before your surgery.

**REMEMBER:** *DO NOT eat or drink anything after midnight unless you have been specifically told to do so by your physician or pre-admission nurse. Your surgery will be cancelled if you do not follow this very important instruction.*

- Ask your primary care physician if you need to stop taking any of your regular medicines. Your surgeon or primary care physician may ask you to bring all of your medicines in the original containers to the hospital. Please give all medicines from home to the nurse. Your medicine will be returned to you when you are ready to go home.

## Having Orthopedic Surgery

As a patient undergoing orthopedic surgery at Baylor Orthopedic and Spine Hospital at Arlington, we want your experience to be as stress-free as possible. This will explain the procedures, equipment, the operation, as well as the pre-and post-operative care. When you know what to expect and when to expect it, you are less likely to feel anxious.

We individually plan your care, and then adjust it according to your needs. Further, by the time you leave the hospital, you will know how to better help yourself during your recovery process at home.

### Straight Talk with MDs and RNs

You are not a statistic or a number while you are at Baylor Orthopedic and Spine Hospital at Arlington. You will benefit from interaction with many different hospital employees—physicians, specialists (like anesthesiologists), nurses, physical therapists, and other members of the health care team whose job it is to care for you.

Again, please do not be shy about asking questions and tell someone if you are feeling anxious at any time. Certainly, many people will be asking you questions and talking to you about a variety of topics. Your feedback helps us plan your operation and follow up care. Please be thorough when you answer a question from anyone caring for you. All information is strictly confidential.

Your doctor already knows a great deal about your medical history. However, to learn even more about you, pre operative tests may be ordered. The following tests are common: blood, urine, electrocardiogram (ECG) and x-rays.

Prior to your operation, hospital protocol requires that each patient sign consent forms for anesthesia and surgery. Please try to have questions about your surgery and anesthesia answered before it is time to sign the consent forms.

### Post Operative Requirement—Simple Physical Activities

You will be asked to perform these simple activities after your surgery. Exercising will help work off the effects of anesthesia, stimulate blood circulation and keep your muscles strong. Granted, much of your care will be handled by doctors and nurses, however it is your job to do these exercises. If you do, you will recover faster—so be familiar with the following before your surgery:

### **Deep Breathing**

Some anesthesia gases remain in the lungs after surgery. Deep breathing is crucial for expanding and clearing the lungs. To practice, lie on your back, set a tissue box on the middle of your chest and slowly inhale through your nose. Observe how the box rises and make sure to breathe deeply enough so that your whole chest expands. Let all the air out through your mouth and watch the box descend. You can begin deep breathing any time after surgery.

### **Coughing**

Fluid or mucus may collect in the lungs during surgery, coughing is the best way to get rid of it. After taking three deep breaths, cough several times as hard as you can. Do not be discouraged if it is difficult at first.

### **Hand and Foot Exercises**

Even the smallest movements with your hands and feet help improve your circulation.

**Do the following simple movements several times a day:**

1. Point your toes away from your body
2. Roll your ankle
3. Point your toes toward your head
4. Clench your fists
5. Straighten your fingers
6. Wiggle your fingers

### **Walking**

Walking is very important to your recovery. You will begin walking with our physical therapists, sometimes even the day of your surgery.

You may think the last thing you will want to do after surgery is exercise; however these simple activities are critical to your recovery. We understand that you may feel some discomfort when doing them, but please remember the benefits are well worth the effort. Studies have proven that people who exercise heal faster and better than those who do not.

## Surgery Day

- Enter through the hospital's front doors and proceed to the front desk for check in.
- The registration staff will check you in and escort you the private pre-operative area when ready.
- You will be given a hospital gown to be worn during surgery. No other clothing is allowed. Your privacy and modesty will be respected and protected at all times.
- All personal items must be removed, including hair accessories, jewelry, glasses, contact lenses, hearing aids and prostheses (such as artificial limbs or eyes).
- Remove any artificial dental work unless otherwise instructed by your doctor.
- We recommend that you let family or friends hold your valuables.
- Just before surgery, you may be given medication to help you relax. The medication may cause drowsiness or light-headedness. Your mouth may become dry and your eyesight may seem blurred. For your safety, the side rails on your bed will be raised. Please do not get out of bed without asking the nurse for help.

## What to expect:

In the pre-operative area you will be prepared for surgery. This includes starting an IV, confirming the planned procedure, marking your operative site and reviewing your medical history. You will meet your surgical team which includes your orthopedic surgeon, OR nurse, and anesthesiologist. Following surgery you will be taken to the recovery room where you will typically remain for one to two hours. During this time, pain control will be established and your vital signs will be monitored.

You will then be taken to the 2nd floor of the hospital where the orthopedic team will care for you. Only one or two very close family members or friends should visit you on this day.

Generally, you should expect to walk the day of surgery unless you receive a nerve block. This will help prevent blood clots from forming in your legs. Also, you will be wearing massaging sleeves on your lower legs for the same purpose. The physical therapist will assist you in walking shortly after surgery. You will be instructed by your nurses on the use of the incentive spirometer, and should perform coughing and deep breathing exercises that you were taught in your pre-operative education class.

## Anesthesia and You

Decisions regarding your anesthesia are tailored to your personal needs.

You will meet your anesthesiologist immediately before your surgery. Your anesthesiologist will review all information needed to evaluate your general health. This will include your medical history, laboratory test results, allergies and current medications. With this information, together you will determine the type of anesthesia best suited for you. Your anesthesiologist will also answer any further questions you may have.

You will also meet your surgical nurses. Intravenous (IV) fluids will be started and pre-operative medications\* may be given, if needed. Once in the operating room, monitoring devices will be attached such as a blood pressure cuff, EKG and other devices for your safety. At this point you will be ready for anesthesia.

Your anesthesiologist is responsible for your comfort and well being before, during and immediately after your surgical procedure. In the operating room, the anesthesiologist will manage vital functions, including heart rate and rhythm, blood pressure, body temperature and breathing. The anesthesiologist also is responsible for fluid and blood replacement when necessary.

### The types available to you are:

- **General anesthesia** – Provides loss of consciousness.
- **Regional anesthesia** – Involves the injection of a local anesthetic to provide numbness, loss of pain or loss of sensation to a large region of the body. Regional anesthetic techniques include spinal blocks, epidural blocks, and leg blocks.

Your anesthesiologist will discuss the risks and benefits associated with the different anesthetic options, as well as any complications or side effects that can occur with each type of anesthetic.

Nausea or vomiting may be related to anesthesia or the type of surgical procedure. Although less of a problem today because of improved anesthetic agents and techniques, these side effects continue to occur for some patients. Medications to treat nausea and vomiting will be given if needed. The amount of discomfort you experience will depend on several factors, especially the type of surgery.

Your doctors and nurses can relieve pain with medications. Your discomfort should be tolerable, but do not expect to be totally pain free. The staff will teach you the pain scale (0-10) to assess your pain level.

*\*NOTE: Medications may be given that make you drowsy and blur your memory.*

## After Surgery

**Day 1** after surgery between 6:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m., you will be assisted with your AM care and seated in your recliner for breakfast. Your surgeon and/or his physician assistant will typically visit you early in the day. On surgery days for your surgeon, visitation may be later in the day.

The physical therapist will assess your progress and you will continue ambulating with a walker. Throughout the day, you should continue to practice your “ankle pumps”, use your incentive spirometer every hour, as well as your cough and deep breathing exercises. Your “massaging sleeves” should be on both legs when you are idle in your bed or while sleeping. Your designated “coach” is encouraged to be present as much as possible, particularly during physical therapy sessions.

Your case manager will meet with you to discuss initial discharge needs. She/he will help to coordinate your plan of care and identify barriers to discharge.

### Day 1 at a Glance

5:00 – 6:00 a.m.	Blood drawn and vital signs.
6:00 – 7:30 a.m.	Bath, and out of bed to recliner for breakfast.
7:30 – 12:00 noon	Physical Therapy evaluation.
12:00 noon	Lunch
1:00 – 4:00 p.m.	Physical Therapy.

### Don't forget to walk in the p.m.

NOTES: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Day 2** will start in a similar manner to Day 1. You will be assisted with AM care, dressed, and seated in your recliner by breakfast. Your surgeon and/or physician's assistant will visit you.

It would be helpful if your “coach” participates in therapy. Please remember to walk as much as possible throughout the day without assistance only if your physical therapist has assessed you to be safe, and able to walk independently.

Your “coach” should always accompany you.

Throughout the day, you should continue to practice your “ankle pumps”, use your incentive spirometer every hour, as well as your cough and deep breathing exercises. Your “massaging sleeves” should be on both legs when you are in your bed idle or sleeping.

Your case manager will finalize discharge plans and/or make referrals to an appropriate level of care. Your case manager will also arrange home medical equipment as identified by the physical therapist.

### Day 2 at a Glance

5:00 – 6:00 a.m.	Blood drawn and vital signs.
6:00 – 7:30 a.m.	Bath, and out of bed to recliner for breakfast.
7:30 – 12:00 noon	Walk in hallway and therapy session.
12:00 noon	Lunch
1:00 – 4:00 p.m.	Physical Therapy.

**Don't forget to walk in the p.m.**

NOTES:

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**Day 3** will start with ambulating to the bathroom where you will complete your AM care. We encourage your “coach” to be here at the start of your day, to assist you with your AM care, dressing and ambulation.

### If you are going directly home

Someone responsible needs to drive you. You will receive written discharge instructions concerning medications, physical therapy, activity, etc. If you require home health services, your case manager will make arrangements. Take this Orthopedic Guide with you. Arrangements are usually made for a physical therapist to encourage your rapid rehabilitation. The goal during this time is to gain strength walking.

### If you are going to an acute rehabilitation facility

The decision to go home or to an acute rehabilitation facility will be influenced collectively by you, your case manager, physical therapist, the surgeon, and your

insurance company. Every attempt will be made to have this decision finalized in advance, but it may be delayed until the day of discharge.

*Please remember that your insurance company must approve the rehabilitation stays. A patient's stay in an acute rehabilitation facility must be coordinated in accordance with guidelines established by Medicare and/or your insurance company. Although you may desire to go to rehabilitation when you are discharged, your insurance company will monitor your progress while you are in the hospital. Upon evaluation of your progress, you will either meet the criteria to benefit from acute rehabilitation, or your insurance company may recommend that you return home with other care arrangements. Therefore, it is important for you to make alternative plans preoperatively for care at home. Your case manager can assist you with any of these arrangements.*

*Keep in mind that the majority of our patients do so well, they do not meet the guidelines to qualify for acute rehabilitation. Also keep in mind that insurance companies do not become involved in "social issues" such as a lack of caregiver, animals, etc. These are issues you will need to address before admission.*

## Post-Operative Care – Knee Replacement

### Caring for Yourself at Home

This guide provides you with precautions about sitting and moving safely and illustrations to help you perform your daily exercises.

When you are at home, be sure to exercise your new knee as shown by your therapists.

Surgeon's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Knee Prosthesis: Right

Left

Weight Bearing: \_\_\_\_\_

Physical Therapist (PT): \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: (        ) \_\_\_\_\_

## What is the Focus of Rehabilitation?

The focus of our rehabilitation program at Baylor Orthopedic and Spine Hospital at Arlington is to make you as independent as possible in your daily life activities. The following guidelines have been developed by therapists and your medical team for your successful recovery. It is important to follow these guidelines to experience a successful recovery from your total knee replacement surgery. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to ask the physicians, nurses, and therapists caring for you.

## Going Home

This information will help you manage your care at home. If you have any additional questions, please ask your doctor, nurse, or therapist.

Many patients go home three days after their surgery. You and your surgeon will decide what is best for you. Usually, you will be discharged if:

### You know the signs of surgical complications

- Increasing pain in your new knee.
- Persistent and/or increasing pain or swelling in your calf or leg.
- Excessive redness, heat or drainage at your surgery site.
- Fever of 101°F or higher.

### You know all the medications you are taking, their purpose and possible side effects

It is important to understand all of your medications, including why you are taking them and their possible side effects.

### Your physical therapist has confirmed that you can perform daily activities and exercises:

- Get in and out of bed by yourself.
- Walk on your own at least 100 feet with your walking device.
- Bathe and dress yourself using special tools without help.
- Use the toilet or commode without help.
- Stand for 10 minutes at a counter or sink to do simple tasks by yourself.
- Be able to get in and out of the bathtub or shower safely and correctly based on your home bathtub/shower.
- Climb up and down 12 stairs with help standing by (if you have stairs at home).
- Be able to do your home exercise program as instructed by your therapist.

## Activities of Daily Living

Before you leave the hospital, you must meet the goals set by your physical therapist. They will prepare you for activities of daily living and instruct you on the best ways to move about.

### Climbing Stairs\*

#### Up with the Good, Down with the Bad

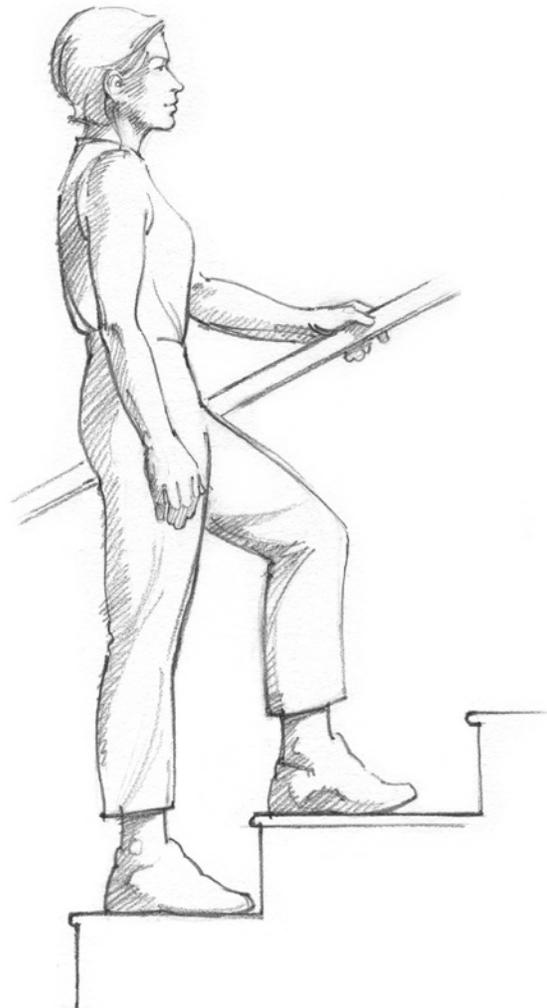
##### Going up stairs:

1. Using the handrail for support, start by placing the non-operated (good) leg on the first step.
2. Bring the operated (bad) leg up to the same stair.
3. Repeat until you reach the top.
4. DO NOT climb the stairs in a normal foot over foot fashion until your surgeon or therapist tells you that it is safe to do so.

*\*Initially have a family member help you climb up or down the stairs, standing one step below you on your operated (bad) side.*

##### Going down stairs:

1. Using the handrail for support, place the operated leg on the first step.
2. Bring the non-operated leg down to the same stair.
3. Repeat until you reach the bottom.
4. DO NOT descend the stairs in a normal foot over foot fashion until your surgeon or therapist tells you that it is safe to do so.



## Getting In and Out of the Car

1. Move the front passenger seat all the way back to allow the most leg room.
2. Recline the back of the seat if possible.
3. If you have fabric seat covers, place a plastic trash bag on the seat cushion to help you slide once you are seated.
4. Using your walker, back up to the front passenger seat.
5. Steady yourself using one hand on the walker. With the other hand, reach back for the seat and lower yourself down keeping your operated leg straight out in front of you. Be careful not to hit your head when getting in.
6. Turn frontward, leaning back as you lift your operated leg into the car.
7. Return the seat back to a sitting position. Avoid bending the hip more than 90 degrees.
8. When getting out of the car, reverse these instructions.

## Getting In and Out of a Chair:

For the next 12 weeks, it is best to use a chair that has arms.

### Getting into a chair:

1. Take small steps; turn until your back is towards the chair. DO NOT pivot.
2. Slowly back up to the chair until you feel the chair against the back of your legs.
3. Slide your operated leg forward.
4. Using the arm of the chair for support of one hand while holding the walker with the other hand, slowly lower your body into the chair.
5. Move the walker out of the way but keep it within reach.



**Getting out of a chair:**

1. Position yourself near the front edge of the chair.
2. Place one hand on the arm of the chair and the other hand on the walker, then lift yourself off the chair. Be careful not to twist your body.
3. DO NOT try to use the walker with both hands while getting out of the chair.
4. Balance yourself before grabbing for the walker and attempting to walk.



**Getting In and Out of the Bathtub**

**Using a bath seat:**

1. Always use a rubber mat or nonskid adhesive strips on the bottom of the bathtub or shower stall.
2. Place the bath seat in the bathtub facing the faucets.
3. Back up to the bathtub until you can feel the bathtub. Be sure you are in front of the bath seat.
4. Reach back with one hand for the bath seat. Keep the other hand on the walker.
5. Slowly lower yourself onto the bath seat, keeping the operated leg out straight.
6. Move the walker out of the way, but keep it within reach.
7. Lift your legs over the edge of the bathtub, using a leg lifter for the operated leg, if necessary.
8. Keep your incision dry until the staples are removed.



**Getting out of the bathtub using a bath seat:**

1. Lift your legs over the outside of the bathtub.
2. Move to the edge of the bath seat.
3. Push up with one hand on the back of the bath seat while holding on to the center of the walker with the other hand.
4. Balance yourself before grabbing the walker.



### **Lying in Bed**

#### **When lying on your back:**

1. Position a pillow between your legs when lying on your back.
2. Keep the operated hip/leg positioned in bed so the kneecap and toes are pointed to the ceiling.
3. Avoid letting your foot roll inward or outward. A blanket or towel roll on the outside of your leg may help you maintain this position.

### Getting Out of Bed

#### When getting out of bed:

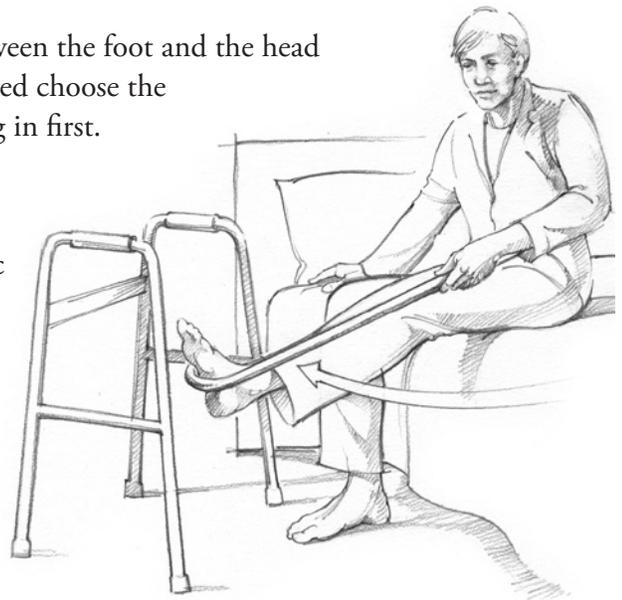
1. If possible, exit the bed from the side that will allow you to lower your non-operated leg first.
2. Move your hips to the edge of the bed.
3. Sit up with your arms supporting you then lower your non-operated leg to the floor.
4. Lower your operated leg to the floor.
5. If necessary, you may use a cane, a rolled bed sheet, or a belt to assist with lowering your leg.
6. Use both hands to push off the bed. If the bed is low, place one hand in the center of the walker while pushing up from the bed with the other.
7. Once you are up and stable, reach for the walker.



### Getting into Bed

#### When getting into bed:

1. Back up to the bed and position yourself halfway between the foot and the head of the bed. If you have access from either side of the bed choose the side which will allow you to get your non-operated leg in first.
2. Reaching back with both hands, slowly sit down on the edge of the bed. Move toward the center of the mattress. Silk or nylon bed wear, or sitting on a plastic bag may make sliding easier.
3. Once you are firmly on the mattress, move your walker out of the way, but keep it within reach.
4. Rotate so that you are facing the foot of the bed.
5. Lift your leg and pivot into the bed. When lifting your operated leg, you may use a cane, a rolled bed sheet, or a belt to help with lifting.
6. Lift your other leg into the bed.
7. Move your hips towards the center of the bed and lay back.
8. Make sure you are not bending forward and that your operated hip is not turning in.



### Using the Toilet

#### When sitting down on the toilet:

1. Take small steps and turn until your back is to the toilet. DO NOT pivot.
2. Back up to the toilet until you feel it touch the back of your leg.
3. Slide your operated leg out in front when sitting down.
4. If using a commode with arm rests, reach back for both arm rests and lower yourself onto the toilet. If using a raised toilet seat without arm rests, keep one hand in the center of the walker while reaching back for the toilet seat with the other.



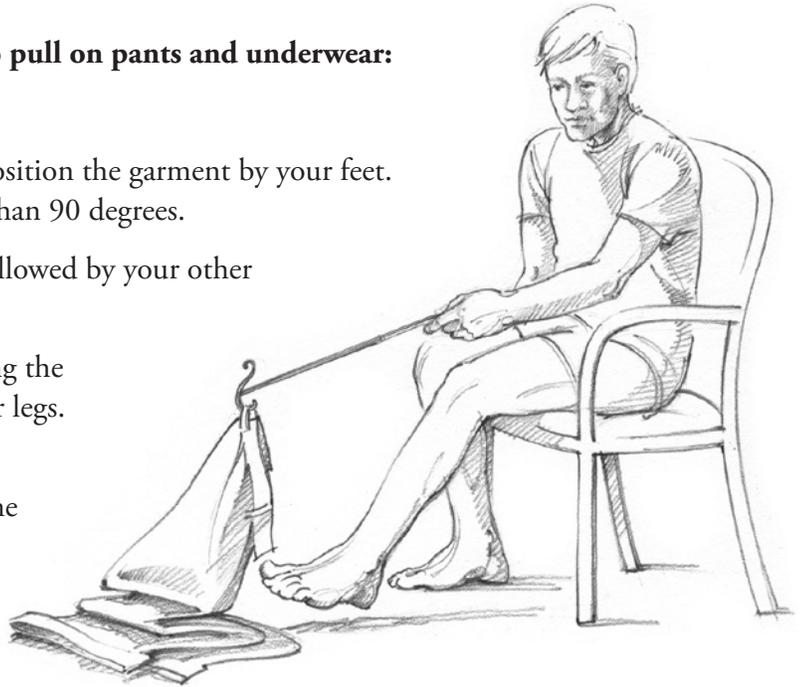
#### When getting up from the toilet:

1. If using a commode with arm rests, use the arm rests to push up.
2. If using a raised toilet seat without arm rests, place one hand on the walker and push off the toilet seat with the other.
3. Slide operated hip/leg out in front of you when standing up.
4. Balance yourself before grabbing the walker and attempting to walk.

## Putting on Pants

Use a “reacher” or “dressing stick” to pull on pants and underwear:

1. Sit down.
2. Attach the garment to the reacher. Position the garment by your feet. DO NOT bend the hip joint more than 90 degrees.
3. Put your operated hip/foot in first followed by your other leg.
4. Bring the reacher towards you guiding the waistband over your feet and up your legs.
5. Pull your pants up over your knees, within easy reach. DO NOT bend the hip joint more than 90 degrees.
6. Stand with the walker in front of you to pull your pants up the rest of the way.



## Taking off pants and underwear:

1. Back up to the chair or bed where you will be undressing. Unfasten your pants and let them drop to the floor.
2. Push your underwear down to your knees. DO NOT bend the hip joint more than 90 degrees.
3. Lower yourself down onto the bed, keeping your operated hip/leg straight.
4. With the help of the reacher, take your non operated hip/foot out first and then the other.
5. Using the reacher can help you remove your pants from your foot and off the floor to prevent a possible trip and fall.

## Putting on Socks

**Use a sock aid to put on socks:**

1. Sit on a chair or bed. Slide the sock onto the sock aid.
2. Hold the cord and drop the sock aid in front of your foot. It is easier to do this if your knee is bent.
3. Slip your foot into the sock aid.
4. Straighten your knee, point your toe and pull the sock on.
5. Keep pulling until the sock aid pulls out.

**Note: DO NOT bend the hip joint more than 90 degrees.**



## Putting on Shoes

**Use a long-handled shoe horn to put your shoes on:**

1. Sit on a chair or bed. DO NOT bend the hip joint more than 90 degrees.
2. Wear sturdy slip-on shoes or shoes with Velcro® closures or elastic shoe laces. DO NOT wear high-heeled shoes or shoes without backs.
3. Use the long-handled shoehorn to slide your shoes in front of your feet.
4. Place the shoehorn inside the shoe against the back of the heel. The curve of the shoehorn should line up with the inside curve of the shoe heel.
5. Lean back, if necessary, as you lift your leg and place your toes in your shoe.
6. Step down into your shoe, sliding your heel down the shoehorn.



## Tips for Your Recovery

### Caring for Your Knee When in Bed

- Pump your ankles up and down 10 times every 2 hours to maintain good blood flow (circulation) to your lower legs.
- Do not lie in bed with a pillow under your knee. This will interfere with regaining full knee mobility.

### Caring for Your Knee During the Day

- Avoid sitting and/or standing for long periods (no more than 30 minutes in one place). Changing position frequently will increase blood flow, decrease joint stiffness, and decrease post-operative leg swelling.
- To decrease pain, inflammation and swelling, ice can be placed on your knee for 15 - 20 minutes every hour or as tolerated.
- Follow your home exercises program given to you by the hospital physical therapist.

**Note: Check with your doctor to see how long you should follow your knee precautions.**

### Caring for Your Knee at Home

**Ask your doctor when:**

- You can take a shower.
- You may start to drive and return to work.
- Your staples will be removed, if you have staples.

### Caring for Your Surgical Incision

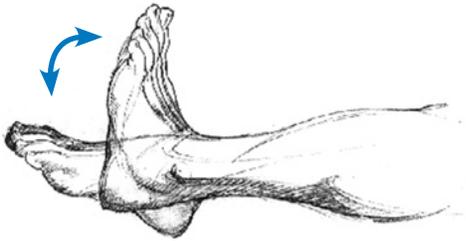
- Keep your incision clean and dry until all the staples or stitches are removed.
- If you have staples or stitches, they will be taken out about 10 - 14 days after your surgery. Your doctor, a nurse or therapist will remove the staples or stitches.
- Do not apply cream or ointment to the staples or stitches unless instructed to do so by your surgeon.

## Beginning Your Home Exercise Program

An important part of your recovery is following a home exercise program. When muscles are not used, they become weak and do not work as well in supporting and moving the body. Surgery can correct the knee problem, but the muscles will remain weak unless you strengthen them with regular exercise. To start the home exercise program, your therapist will teach you how to perform these exercises. Do your home exercise program as prescribed by your physical therapist.

### Exercise

Exercising is very important. It brings back your strength to walk, and get well faster. You may exercise any time you want, but do it at least 2–3 times per day.

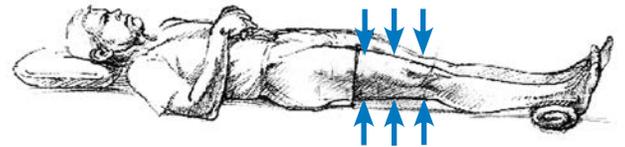


#### Ankle Pumps

Lie on your back or sit in a chair. Gently point and flex your ankles. Repeat 20–30 times.

Special Instructions: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

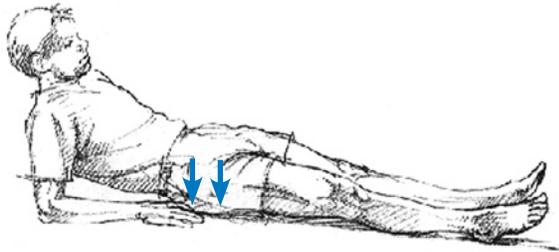


#### Quad Sets

Tighten the muscles on top of both thighs, pushing the back of your knee into the bed. Hold 5 seconds. Relax. Repeat 20–30 times.

Special Instructions: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



**Gluteal Sets**

Lie on your back. Tighten your hip muscles by pinching your buttocks together as tightly as possible. Hold 5 seconds. Relax slowly. Repeat 20–30 times.

Special Instructions: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

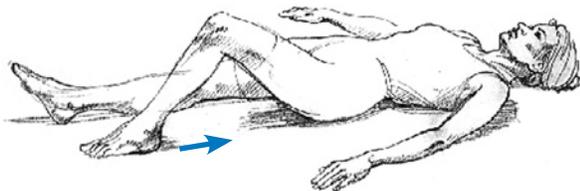


**Short Arc Quads**

Place a towel roll under your operated knee. Raise your foot until your leg is straight. Hold 5 seconds. Repeat 20–30 times.

Special Instructions: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



**Heel Slides**

Lie on your back with your knees out straight. Bend your operated hip and knee by sliding your foot along the bed. DO NOT BEND YOUR HIP MORE THAN 90 degrees.

Remember to raise and lower your leg slowly. Repeat 20–30 times.

Special Instructions: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



**Knee Extension**

Sit with back against the chair. Straighten operated knee. Hold 5 seconds. Repeat 20–30 times.

Special Instructions: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



## What to Watch For After Knee Replacement

### Infection Control

Infection in your total joint replacement is one of the most feared complications in this operation. Although the risks are low for post-op infections, it is important to realize that the risk remains. Efforts are taken by your surgical team to prevent an infection in surgery and immediately post-op, but infections still occur at a rate of about 1% of all first time joint replacements (there is still a higher risk in revision joint surgery).

In addition, a prosthetic joint could possibly attract the bacteria from an infection located in another part of your body. If you should develop a fever of 101.5 degrees or more, or sustain an injury such as a deep cut or puncture wound, you should clean it as best you can, put a sterile dressing or band-aid on it and notify your primary care doctor. The closer the injury is to your prosthesis, the greater the concern. Occasionally antibiotics may be needed. Superficial scratches may be treated with topical antibiotic ointment. Notify your primary care doctor if the injured area becomes painful or reddened.

### Signs of infection

- Increased swelling, redness at incision site
- Change in color, amount or odor of drainage
- Increased pain at surgical site
- Fever greater than 101.5 degrees F

### Prevention of infection

- Take proper care of your incision as explained
- Notify all physicians and dentist that you have had a total joint replacement
- When having dental work, or other potentially contaminating procedures such as colonoscopy or endoscopy, prophylactic antibiotics are required for a minimum of two years but your surgeon may request longer.

## Blood clots in the legs

Surgery may cause the blood to slow and coagulate in the veins of your legs, creating a blood clot or what we call a “deep vein thrombosis” (DVT). This is why you take blood thinners after surgery, to prevent DVTs. If a clot occurs despite these measures, you may need to be admitted to the hospital to receive intravenous blood thinners. Prompt treatment usually prevents the more serious complication of a pulmonary embolus.

In general, extended travel by car or airplane within the first six weeks of surgery is considered more risky in the development of a blood clot. If you must travel, stop and change position hourly to prevent your joint from tightening. Drink plenty of water, perform frequent ankle pumps and plan frequent bathroom breaks. If you are traveling by air, drink plenty of water to keep hydrated which will result in your need to use the bathroom and force you to get up and walk. Pressurized airplanes, cramped seats and immobility are a set up for a DVT.

## Signs of blood clots in legs

Blood clots are hard to diagnose by physical exam. When suspected, an ultrasound test is performed.

- Swelling in thigh, calf or ankle that does not go down with elevation
- Pain, tenderness in calf

**NOTE: Blood clots can form in either leg.**

## Prevention of Blood Clots

- Foot and ankle pumps
- Walking
- Blood thinners such as Coumadin or Lovenox

## Pulmonary Embolus

This is a serious (but rare) complication where a blood clot in a leg vein grows big enough to a point where a piece breaks off, floats in the vein and travels to the heart and lungs.

**This is an emergency and you should CALL 911 if any of the following symptoms are noticed or suspected:**

## Signs of a Pulmonary Embolus

- Sudden chest pain
- Difficult and/or rapid breathing
- Shortness of breath
- Sweating
- Confusion

## Prevention of Pulmonary Embolus

The best prevention of a pulmonary embolus is preventing blood clots in the legs. If you have symptoms of a blood clot in either leg, call your physician immediately.

## “Dos” and “Don’ts” for the Rest of Your Life

Whether they have reached all the recommended goals in three months or not, all joint patients need to have a regular exercise program to maintain their fitness and the health of the muscles around their joints.

With both your orthopedic and primary care physician’s permission, you should be on a regular exercise program three to four times per week lasting 20-30 minutes.

Impact activities such as running and singles tennis may be too much load on the joint, and are not recommended. High-risk activities such as downhill skiing are likewise discouraged because of the risk of fractures around the prosthesis. Infections are always a potential problem and you may need antibiotics for prevention.

## What You Should Know About Prescription and Non-Prescription Drugs

DO NOT TAKE any of the listed drugs for seven (7) days prior to your procedure. If you are taking Coumadin or Heparin, contact your doctor before discontinuing! There may be other drugs, prescription or non-prescription, that are not on the list. Please check with the doctor that prescribed the medication in question.

<b>-A-</b>	Asperbuf Tablets	But-Tabs
Advil Tablets/Suspension	Aspergum	Butazolidine
Aggrastat	Axotal Tablets	
Agrylin Aleve	Azdone	<b>-C-</b>
Alka Seltzer Effervescent Tablets	<b>-B-</b>	Cama Arthritis Pain
Alka Seltzer Cold Medicine Tablets	Bayer Aspirin Tablets	Cataflam
Anaprox	Bayer Aspirin Caplets	Carisoprodol & Aspirin Tabs
Ansaid	Bayer Children's Aspirin	Celebrex
Anodynos	Bayer Children's Cold Tabs	Clinoril
Argesic Tablets	Bayer Time-Release Aspirin Tablets	Co-Advil
Arthralgen Tablets	BC Powder	Congesprin Chewable Tabs
Arthritis Pain Formula Tabs	Biochemical Tissue Salts	Coopidogrel Bisulfate
Arthritis Strength Bufferin Tablets	Buff-A-Comp Tabs	Cope Tablets
Arthropan Liquid	Buff-A-Comp Caps	Cosprin Tablets
Arthrotec	Buff-A-Comp #3 Tablets (w/Codeine)	Coumadin CP-2 Tablets
A.S.A. Tablets	Buffaprin Tablets	<b>-D-</b>
A.S.A. Enseals	Bufferin Tablets	Damason – P
Ascriptin w/Codeine Tabs	Buffets II Tablets	Darvon w/ASA Pulvules
Ascriptin A/D/Tables	Buffinol Tablets	Darvon Compound Pulvules
Ascriptin Extra-Strength Tablets	Butalbital Capsules	Darvon Compound – 65
		Darvon N w/ASA

Dasin Capsules	Four-Way Cold Tablets	Mectofenamate
Doan's Pills	Fragmin Injection	Medipren
Dolobid		Mefenamic
Duoprin Capsules	<b>-G-</b>	Methocarbamol w/Aspirin Tablets
Duoprin-S Syrup	Gaysal-S Tablets	Micrainin Tablets
Duradyne Tablets	Gelpirin Tablets	Midol Caplets
Durasal Tablets	Gelprin-M Tablets	Mobidin Tablets
Dynosal Tablets	Goody's Powder	Momentum Muscular Backache Formula Tabs
Dipyridamole	<b>-H-</b>	Mono-gesic Tablets
<b>-E-</b>	Halfprin Tabs	Motrin
Easprin	Heparin	
Ecotrin Tablets	<b>-I-</b>	<b>-N-</b>
Efficin Tablets	Ibuprofen	Nalfon
Emagrin Tablets	Indomethacin	Naprosyn
Empirin Tablets	Indocin	Naproxen
Empirin w/Codeine Tablets	Indo-Lemmon Capsules	Neocylate Tablets
Endodan Tabs	Integrilin Injection	Norgesic Forte Tablets
Equagesic Tablets	<b>-K-</b>	Normiflo Injection
Excedrin Tabs or Caps	Ketaprofen	Nuprin
<b>-F-</b>	<b>-L-</b>	<b>-O-</b>
Feldene	Lanorinal Tablets	Orgaran Injection
Fenoprofen	Lodine	Orudis
Fiogesic	Lortab ASA	Os-Cal Gesic Tablets
Fiorinal Tablets	Lovenox Injection	Oxycodone and Aspirin Tabs
Fiorinal w/Codeine		
Fiortal Capsules	<b>-M-</b>	<b>-P-</b>
Fiortal w/Codeine	Measurin Tablets	Palabate-SF
Flolan Injection	Meclomen	Pedia Care Fever Liquid

Pepto-Bismol Tablets	Soma Compound	<b>-Z-</b>
Pepto-Bismol Suspension	Stanback Tabs	Zileuton
Percodan Tablets	Stanback Powder	Zorprin
Persantine	Supac	
Persistin Tablets	Synalgos Capsules	
Plavix	Synalgos-DC Capsules	
Ponstel		
Propoxyphene Compound	<b>-T-</b>	
Proxicam	Talwin Compound Tabs	
	Ticlid	
<b>-R-</b>	Tolectin	
Relafen	Tolmetin	
ReoPro	Trendar	
Robaxisal Tablets	Trental	
Roxiprin Tablets	Triaminicin Tablets	
Rufen	Trigesic	
	Trilisate Tabs	
<b>-S-</b>	Trilisate Liquid	
S-A-C Tablets		
St. Joseph's Aspirin for Children	<b>-U-</b>	
St. Joseph's Cold Tablets for Children	Uracel	
	Ursinus	
Saleto Tablets	<b>-V-</b>	
Salflex	Vanquish Caplets	
Salocol Tablets	Verin	
Sine-Off Sinus Medicine	Vioxx	
Tablets Aspirin Form	Voltarin	
SK-65 Compound Capsules		
Soma	<b>-Y-</b>	
	YSP Aspirin Capsules	

## Resources

### Physical Therapist

817-583-7250

### Pre-Operative Nurse

817-583-7033

### Case Manager

817-583-7256

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