

# Caring for Yourself—Pre-surgery Preparations

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# Caring for Yourself—Pre-surgery Preparations

## Pre-surgery Strengthening Program

Because of your hip discomfort, you may have been living a less active life than you'd like. Having your hip replaced will correct your joint problem, but it won't strengthen the muscles surrounding your hip. That's up to you.

When muscles aren't used, they grow weak and fail to support the body properly. You need a regular exercise program to strengthen your muscles, so that they in turn can support your new joint. Starting this exercise program before your surgery can make for a much easier recovery.

The following pages list several exercises you can perform before surgery. Because everyone responds to exercise differently, only you can judge how much exercise to complete each day. If an exercise causes an increase in your hip pain, stop doing it.

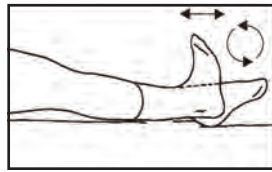
Try to exercise once or twice each day. (Keep track of your progress on the chart provided later in this chapter.) Begin several weeks before your surgery. You should start by performing five repetitions of each exercise. If you can, increase the number of repetitions by five each week until you can perform each exercise 20 times.

You can complete most exercises while lying down. Your bed is an excellent spot on which to perform these exercises.

# Caring for Yourself—Pre-surgery Preparations

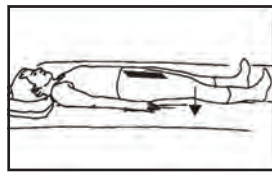
## Pre-surgery Strengthening Program (continued)

### Hip Exercises—Before Surgery



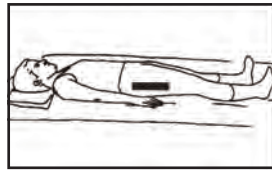
#### Ankle Pumps and Circles

Lie on your back with a pillow supporting your head. Bend both your ankles up, pulling your toes toward you, then bend both your ankles down, pointing your toes away from you. In addition, rotate your foot clockwise and counterclockwise, keeping your toes pointed toward the ceiling.



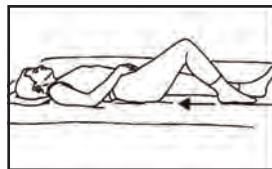
#### Thigh Squeezes

Lie on your back with a pillow supporting your head. Tighten the muscles in the front of your thigh by pushing the back of your knees down onto the bed. Hold for five seconds.



#### Buttocks Squeezes

Lie on your back with a pillow supporting your head. Squeeze the muscles of your buttocks together. Tighten the muscles. Hold for five seconds.



#### Heel Slides

Lie on your back with a pillow supporting your head. Bend your knee by sliding your heel up toward your buttocks. Keep your heel on the bed. Keep your kneecap pointed toward the ceiling throughout the exercise. You may want to place a cookie sheet under your heel to help it slide more easily.



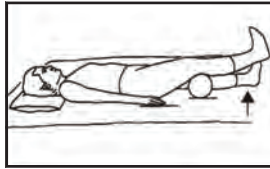
#### Leg Slides

Which side of your hip is scheduled for joint replacement? That is called your “involved” side. Lie flat on your bed, and slide that leg out to the side, keeping your kneecap pointed toward the ceiling. Slide your leg back and return to the starting position.

# Caring for Yourself—Pre-surgery Preparations

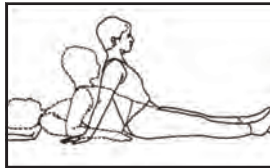
## Pre-surgery Strengthening Program (continued)

### Hip Exercises—Before Surgery (continued)



#### Lying Kicks

Lie on your back with a 3-pound coffee can or rolled blanket under your involved knee (if your left hip will be operated on, use your left knee for this exercise). Straighten your knee. Hold for five seconds. The back of your knee should stay in contact with the can or blanket throughout the exercise.



#### Bed Mobility Exercise

Lie flat on your back. Rise up onto both elbows. Straighten your arms out behind you and come to a sitting position. Lower yourself down onto your elbows again, then lie flat.



#### Sitting Kicks

Sit in a sturdy chair. Lift your involved leg (the leg on the side of your body slated for surgery) and straighten your knee as much as possible. Hold for five seconds. Return to the starting position and relax.



#### Chair Push-up

Sit on a sturdy chair with arms. Grasp the arms of the chair. Push down on the chair arms, straightening your elbows so that you raise your buttocks off the seat. Lower yourself slowly back into the chair. If your arms are weak at first, use your legs to help raise your buttocks off the chair.

# Caring for Yourself—Pre-surgery Preparations

## Pre-surgery Strengthening Program (continued)

### Optional Hip Exercises—Before Surgery



#### Hamstring Sets

Lie on your back with a pillow supporting your head. Bend your involved knee a little and tighten the muscle on the back of your thigh by digging your heel into the bed. Hold for five seconds.



#### Abduction Sets

Lie on your back with a pillow supporting your head. Tighten muscles on the outside of your thigh by pushing the involved leg outward against an immovable object. Hold for five seconds.



#### Straight Leg Raises

Lie on your back with a pillow supporting your head. Bend your uninvolved leg. Keep your foot flat on the bed. Raise your involved leg about 12 inches, keeping your knee straight. Hold briefly. Progress to holding for five seconds.



#### Bridging

Slowly raise your buttocks from the bed, keeping your stomach muscles tight. Hold. Slowly lower your buttocks onto the bed. Relax.

# Caring for Yourself—Pre-surgery Preparations

## Pre-surgery Progress Chart

Keep track of your exercise progress by checking off the exercises you've completed, and the days you've completed them. You may also want to record how many repetitions of each exercise you were able to complete.

EXERCISE	WEEK ONE							WEEK TWO							WEEK THREE							WEEK FOUR						
	M	T	W	TH	F	S	S	M	T	W	TH	F	S	S	M	T	W	TH	F	S	S	M	T	W	TH	F	S	S
<input type="checkbox"/> Ankle Pumps/Circles																												
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<input type="checkbox"/> Bridging																												

# Caring for Yourself—Pre-surgery Preparations

## Pre-surgery Mobility Exercises

Until your hip heals from surgery, you may need to learn how to move differently even when performing the most common tasks. Getting in and out of bed, for example, or getting on and off a chair. Practice the following mobility techniques.

### Getting in Bed

- Back up against the bed until you feel it hit the back of your legs.
- Place your involved leg forward. (Remember, your involved leg is the leg on the side of your body scheduled for surgery.)
- Reach for the bed surface, lowering yourself slowly to the edge.
- Scoot back on the bed until your hips feel supported.
- Ask for help from someone in your home, or use a cane, crutch or belt to lift your involved leg onto the bed.

### Getting Out of Bed

- Come to a sitting position in the bed.
- As you turn your body to get out of bed, ask for help from someone in your home, or use a cane, crutch or belt to help get your involved leg out of bed.
- Place your involved leg forward.
- Push off the bed and stand up.
- Do not reach for a walking device until your balance is secure.



### Sitting On a Chair or Toilet

- To sit down, back up against the chair or toilet until you feel it hit the back of your legs.
- Place your involved leg forward.
- Reach back with both hands and sit down.

### Getting Off a Chair or Toilet

- Place your involved leg forward
- Push off with your arms
- Do not reach for a walking device until your balance is secure.

# Caring for Yourself—Pre-surgery Preparations

## Pre-surgery Mobility Exercises (continued)

### Sitting in an Armless Chair

- Approach the chair from the side.
- Place your involved leg forward.
- Reach back for the side edge of the chair and sit down, then turn yourself face-forward.

### Getting Out of an Armless Chair

- Turn yourself so you are sitting sideways in the chair.
- Place your involved leg forward.
- Push up from the chair with both hands.
- Do not reach for a walking device until your balance is secure.

### Getting in the Shower/Tub

For a time after surgery, you may need handrails or grab bars to help support yourself getting in and out of the shower. In addition, ask someone to stand nearby to provide assistance, if needed. Since everyone's tub and shower setup varies, it's a good idea to talk to your occupational therapist. He or she can give you some tips for your bathroom.

- Buy a tub bench. Have it installed in your bathtub or shower.
- Approach the bench from the side, then place your involved leg forward.
- Reach back for the edge of the tub bench and sit down.
- Ask for help from someone in your home, or use a cane, crutch or belt to lift your involved leg into the tub.



### Getting Out of the Shower/Tub

- Use a cane, crutch or belt, or ask someone in your home to lift your involved leg out of the tub.
- Push up from the bench with both hands.
- Do not reach for a walking device until your balance is secure.



# Caring for Yourself—Pre-surgery Preparations

## Pre-surgery Mobility Exercises (continued)

### How to Go Up and Down the Stairs

Your therapist will review the specifics of stair climbing with you but, in general:

- Remember to go up the steps leading with your good leg, then bring your involved leg up to the same step. You can remember this technique with the phrase, “Up with the good.”
- When descending the stairs, lead with your involved leg, then bring your good leg down to the same step. The phrase “Down with the bad” applies.

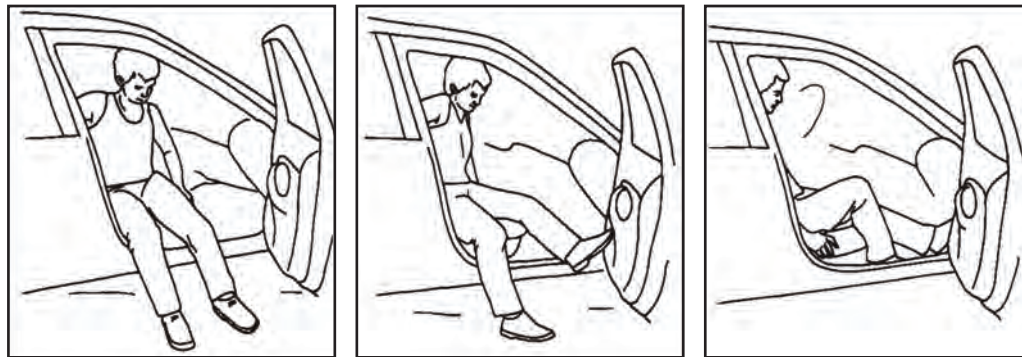
# Caring for Yourself—Pre-surgery Preparations

## Pre-surgery Mobility Exercises (continued)

### Getting in a Car

Placing a large plastic bag on the car seat will help you move more easily. Anytime you're getting in or out of a car, ask the driver to park about 4 feet from the curb edge. Also ask him or her to avoid inclines. Then:

- Back up to your car seat. Place your involved leg forward.
- Reach back and find something to hold onto with your hand—a dashboard, seatback or stable car door will do
- Slowly lower yourself onto the seat
- Scoot back into the car seat. Ask for help from a friend, or use a cane, crutch or belt to lift your involved leg as you bring your legs into the car.



### Getting Out of a Car

- Slide closer to the driver's seat. Ask for help, or use a cane, crutch or belt to lift your involved leg out of the car.
- Scoot to the edge of the seat, and place your feet on the street (on the street, not the curb). Place your involved leg forward.
- As described in "Getting In a Car," hold onto something with your hand. Push with your arms and use your uninvolved leg to stand.
- Do not reach for your walking device until your balance is secure

# Caring for Yourself—Pre-surgery Preparations

## Preparing Your Home for Your Return

Homecoming should be a joyful experience for you. To make the transition from hospital or rehabilitation center to home as happy, and as safe, as possible, you may want to rearrange some of the items in your house. Consider the following:

- Move frequently used items in the kitchen, bathroom, bedroom and workshop to tabletops, or to any surfaces sitting roughly at waist level. The items you'll probably move include shoes, clothing, food, medications, toiletries and toilet paper.
- Move low tables away from your couch and your chairs
- Make sure there are clear pathways leading from your bedroom to your kitchen, and from your bedroom to your bathroom. Eliminate clutter around the house.
- Remove all throw rugs from your floors
- Are your stair railings secure? If not, fix them. If you're constructing a new railing on your stairs, make sure it extends a few inches past the end of the staircase.
- If your bathroom isn't on the first floor of your home, you may want to consider some temporary relief options. For example, you may want to purchase a portable commode.
- Install grab bars in your bathtub or shower. You may also want to place them by the toilet.
- Purchase a tub bench
- Apply adhesive slip strips to your tub or shower
- Consider using liquid soap (in a dispenser) rather than bar soap
- Place a phone in your primary sitting area, and near your bed. You'll find cordless phones very convenient. If you are home alone, you should carry a cordless phone in your walker bag or fanny pack. In case of an emergency, you'll be able to call for help.
- Use a rolling kitchen cart to move heavy or hot items
- Select a chair that you will use when you come home. The best chair for those recovering from hip replacement surgery will be firm, allow you to sit at least 18 inches above the floor and have arms. It should be short enough so that your feet sit flat on the floor, and should place your knees lower than your hips.
- Install nightlights in each room. Try to buy the type with sensors that automatically turn the lights on at sundown.

## Caring for Yourself—Pre-surgery Preparations

### If You Live Alone

Those living alone will face special challenges after hip replacement surgery. To make your homecoming as easy as possible, you may want to complete the following tasks before checking into the hospital:

- Find someone to do your yard work
- Arrange to have your paper and mail delivered to your door rather than to your curb
- Arrange for transportation to the grocery store, community events, your place of worship, family get-togethers, and to appointments with your physician and therapist
- Find someone to help care for your pet
- Prepare and freeze a few meals before your surgery

# Caring for Yourself—Pre-surgery Preparations

## What to Pack

Bringing a few items from home can make your stay in the hospital or rehabilitation center more comfortable. We suggest you:

### Bring to the Hospital

- Nonskid closed-heel-to-toe slippers, sneakers or walking shoes
- Loose-fitting shorts and shirts for three days
- A toothbrush, toothpaste, mouthwash or denture supplies
- A comb or hairbrush
- Shaving supplies and cosmetics
- A container of antibacterial wipes for the skin

Please bring no more than \$5 cash to the hospital with you. Please leave your jewelry and other valuables at home. Also, we prefer that you wear a hospital gown rather than your own nightgown or pajamas. After surgery, you may wish to wear shorts and shirts during your recovery. This helps you feel like you are returning to your normal life more quickly.

### Bring to the Rehabilitation Center

- Loose-fitting slacks, sweatpants, shorts or house dresses
- Comfortable shirts or blouses
- Pajamas or nightgowns
- Socks
- Underwear
- A light jacket or sweater
- A container of antibacterial wipes
- A favorite snack (you can place them in Ziploc® bags)
- Pictures of your loved ones
- A headset and tapes of your favorite music
- Books and magazines

# Caring for Yourself—Pre-surgery Preparations

## The Day Before Your Surgery

- Do not eat solid foods after 9pm the night before your surgery. Do not drink anything, not even water, after midnight. Please know that your surgery can be delayed if you don't follow these instructions.
- Report any changes in your physical condition to your physicians. A number of problems may require the postponement of your surgery. These include a sore throat, a cold, a fever, dental problems, difficulty urinating and skin conditions such as rashes or abrasions.

If you have any questions about whether you are healthy enough to undergo surgery, please ask a member of your health care team.

## The Morning of Your Surgery

- If you have been instructed to take medications in the morning, swallow them with only a small sip of water. Do not drink or eat anything else unless instructed by your doctor.
- Bathe or shower with an antibacterial agent (given at pre-op appointment or day of total joint replacement class).
- Leave yourself plenty of time to arrive at the hospital as directed.

# Surgery and Recovery

**At the Hospital**

**Keeping You Safe**

**About Anesthesia**

**Managing Your Pain**

**Medication Side Effects**

**Preventing Complications**

**A Word About Visitors**

**Postsurgical Care Equipment**

**Postoperative Respiratory Exercises**

**Patient Care Plan**

**When Can I Go Home?**

**Restrictions After Your Surgery**

**Lifting, Bending and Carrying**

# Surgery and Recovery

## At the Hospital

Being in the hospital is probably an unusual experience for you. Read this short list of procedures to help acquaint yourself with the hospital routine.

When you first arrive at the hospital, you will meet with a nurse. He or she will help review what you can expect before and after surgery. From there:

- You will receive a hospital gown to wear
- You will be admitted to the pre-surgery area. (Friends and family members may wait with you there, if you choose.)
- You will be wheeled via stretcher to the preoperative area where you will be introduced to your surgical team. You will then be taken into surgery. Any family or friends visiting you will be directed to the surgery waiting room.
- You will undergo surgery. This process can take from two to three hours.
- After the procedure, you will be placed on your orthopedic bed and taken to the Post-anesthesia Care Unit until you wake up. The waking-up process usually takes from one to two hours. During this time, your surgeon will talk with waiting family and friends.
- The anesthesiologist and recovery room nurse will care for you as you awaken. Depending on the anesthesia used, you may wake up wearing an oxygen mask. You may also experience temporary blurred vision, dry mouth, chills or pain. Your nurse will monitor your vital signs and help make you as comfortable as possible.
- When you are fully awake and medically stable, you will be transferred to the Orthopedic floor.

## Keeping You Safe

- Keeping you safe is our top priority. We will regularly ask you to identify yourself by stating your name and birth date and comparing it to your identification armband. This ensures we provide the right treatment, tests and medications during your stay with us.
- One of our goals is to prevent the spread of infection to our patients. Your health care team will wash their hands with soap and water or use alcohol gel before and after each patient encounter. If you have concerns that your health care provider has not washed his or her hands, please speak up and ask them. Your physician will also order I.V. antibiotics before surgery and possibly following your surgery to help prevent surgical site infections.
- We want to perform the right procedure, on the right patient, at the right site everytime. We will ask you to be involved in the process by identifying your surgical site and confirming the site that your surgeon marks.



# Surgery and Recovery

## About Anesthesia

Anesthesia is a type of medication that causes you to lose sensation, therefore, you feel no pain after anesthesia is administered. This loss of sensation may or may not be accompanied by the loss of consciousness.

At the hospital, an anesthesiologist or certified registered nurse anesthetist takes responsibility for giving you anesthesia. The doctor or nurse will evaluate your medical status and talk with you to decide which type of anesthesia is best suited for your surgery.

The type of anesthesia used will depend on your medical and surgical condition, and on your overall health. “General” and “regional” are the types of anesthesia most often used for hip replacement surgery.

Type	Definition	Advantages	Side Effects
<b>General Anesthesia</b>	General anesthesia acts primarily on the brain and nervous system. It not only eliminates sensations of pain during surgery, it also allows you to sleep during the procedure. General anesthesia is administered by injection or by inhaling it into your respiratory system.	Allows patients to sleep through extensive surgical procedure.	Side effects include a sore throat, headache, hoarseness and nausea.
<b>Regional Anesthesia (includes spinal/epidural anesthesia)</b>	Regional anesthesia involves the loss of sensation to a defined area of the body. Spinal/epidural anesthesia is a type of regional anesthesia. This type is given by injecting a local anesthetic into the lower part of your back, between your vertebrae. Other medicines, delivered through an I.V., usually leave you with little or no memory of the surgery.	Regional anesthesia is less intrusive to the body than general anesthesia. It tends to be easier on your heart and lungs than general anesthesia.	Side effects include minor headaches lasting for a few days after surgery. You may also have some problems urinating. Rarely, patients will experience a headache that emerges when they stand up, and vanishes when they lie down. If this should happen to you, lie flat and call your doctor immediately.

# Surgery and Recovery

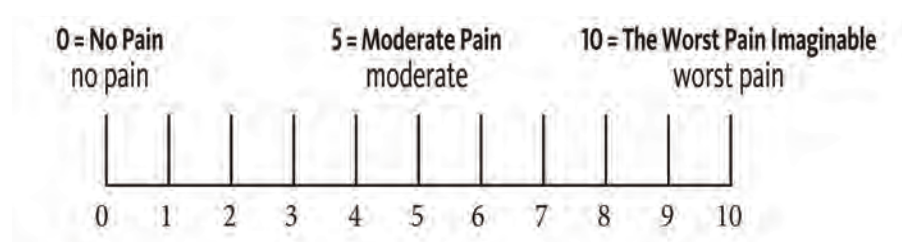
## Managing Your Pain

All patients have the right to pain management. Treating pain is an important part of your care and recovery.

Only you can describe the type, and degree, of pain you experience after surgery. The pain caused by surgery may be severe at first, but it will ease as your body heals. Be sure to report any pain to your doctor or nurse.

## Measuring Your Pain

To help us measure your pain, we will ask you to rate it before and after a dose of pain medication. Rate your pain on the 0-10 point scale drawn below.



## Easing Your Pain

We want to work with you to lessen or relieve any pain you feel after your hip replacement surgery. Keeping pain under control will help you heal faster.

### The keys to optimal pain control are:

- Taking pain medication as soon as the pain starts
- Taking pain medication **before** physical therapy
- Taking pain medication before you start doing anything that will cause pain. These activities include walking, dressing or sitting.

# Surgery and Recovery

## Managing Your Pain (continued)

### Pain Relief from Medication

Your doctor will choose a pain control to best suit your needs. Some patients will be given pain medication — pills, shots, I.V.s — on demand. Doctors will specify that other patients be given pain medication at certain times during the day. Still others will be asked to use a Patient Controlled Analgesia Pump (also called a PCA Pump). This pump allows you to control your own pain management. When you begin to hurt, you simply press a button to inject pain medication into your system. If your doctor orders this type of pain management, your nurse will teach you how to use the pump.

### Holistic Pain Relief

The following techniques can help ease mild to moderate pain. They also make pain medicine work better.

- Apply cold packs to the affected area if ordered by your doctor.
- Practice slow, rhythmic breathing. Imagine that you are in a calm, relaxing place.
- The bedside TV offers relaxation channels. You may bring your headset.

### At-home Pain Control

Know your pain control plan.

- Before leaving the hospital, you will be given a prescription for pain medication. Have it filled. (If you are given a prescription by your doctor before surgery, have it filled before you come to the hospital.) Take as ordered.
- Follow directions carefully. Some pain medications cause nausea if not taken with food. If you suffer from nausea even when taking the medication as directed, call your doctor.
- If your pain doesn't go away after taking your medicine, or if it gets worse, call your doctor.
- When your pain lessens, you may switch to over-the-counter pain medication.
- Many prescription pain medications cause constipation. Increase your intake of water, fruits and vegetables to avoid this. (See Chapter 6 for more information on postsurgical nutrition.)

# Surgery and Recovery

## Medication Side Effects

This chart contains information about the most common side effects of the medications that you may take during your hospital stay. If you have questions or concerns, please ask your nurse.

Reason for Medication	Medication Names - Generic (Brand)	Most Common Side Effects
Pain relief	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Fentanyl</li> <li>▪ Hydrocodone/Acetaminophen (Vicodin®, Lortab®)</li> <li>▪ Hydromorphone (Dilaudid®)</li> <li>▪ Morphine</li> <li>▪ Norco</li> <li>▪ Oxycodone</li> <li>▪ Oxycodone/Acetaminophen (Percocet®)</li> <li>▪ Oxycontin</li> <li>▪ Tramadol (Ultram®)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Dizziness/drowsiness</li> <li>▪ Constipation</li> <li>▪ Queasiness/vomiting</li> <li>▪ Rash</li> <li>▪ Confusion</li> </ul>
Queasiness or vomiting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Compazine</li> <li>▪ Ondansetrom (Zofran®)</li> <li>▪ Promethazine (Phenergan®)</li> <li>▪ Reglan</li> <li>▪ Scopolamine patch</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Headache</li> <li>▪ Constipation</li> <li>▪ Tiredness/drowsiness</li> </ul>
Heartburn or reflux	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Esomeprazole (Nexium®)</li> <li>▪ Famotidine (Pepcid®)</li> <li>▪ Lansoprazole (Prevacid®)</li> <li>▪ Omeprazole (Prilosec®)</li> <li>▪ Pantoprazole (Protonix®)</li> <li>▪ Ranitidine (Zantac®)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Headache</li> <li>▪ Diarrhea</li> </ul>
Lowers cholesterol	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Atorvastatin (Lipitor®)</li> <li>▪ Lovastatin (Mevacor®)</li> <li>▪ Pravastatin (Pravachol®)</li> <li>▪ Rosuvastatin (Crestor®)</li> <li>▪ Simvastatin (Zocor®)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Headache</li> <li>▪ Muscle pain</li> <li>▪ Upset stomach</li> </ul>
Blood thinner (to stop or break down blood clots)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Enoxaparin (Lovenox®)</li> <li>▪ Dalteparin (Fragmin®)</li> <li>▪ Heparin</li> <li>▪ Warfarin (Coumadin®)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Risk of bleeding</li> </ul>
Stops blood clots from forming	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Aspirin</li> <li>▪ Clopidogrel (Plavix®)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Upset stomach</li> <li>▪ Risk of bleeding</li> </ul>
Heart rhythm problems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Amiodarone (Pacerone®)</li> <li>▪ Digoxin (Digitek®)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Dizziness</li> <li>▪ Headache</li> </ul>
Lowers blood pressure and heart rate	Calcium channel blockers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Diltiazem (Cardizem (CD) ®, Cartia XT®, Tiazac®, Dilacor XT®)</li> </ul> Beta blockers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Atenolol (Tenormin®)</li> <li>▪ Carvedilol (Coreg®)</li> <li>▪ Metoprolol (Lopressor XL®)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Headache</li> <li>▪ Dizziness/drowsiness</li> </ul>

# Surgery and Recovery

## Medication Side Effects (continued)

Lowers blood pressure	<p>ACE inhibitors, angiotensin receptor blockers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Benezepril, Captopril, Enalapril, Lisinopril, Quinapril, Ramipril</li> <li>▪ Irbesartan (Avapro<sup>®</sup>)</li> <li>▪ Olmesartan (Benicar<sup>®</sup>)</li> <li>▪ Valsartan (Diovan<sup>®</sup>)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Dizziness</li> <li>▪ Cough</li> </ul>
Antibiotic for bacterial infections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Amoxicillin/Clavulanate (Augmentin<sup>®</sup>)</li> <li>▪ Cefazolin (Ceftin<sup>®</sup>)</li> <li>▪ Cefotetan or Cefoxitin</li> <li>▪ Clindamycin (Cleocin<sup>®</sup>)</li> <li>▪ Ertapenem (Invanz<sup>®</sup>)</li> <li>▪ Levofloxacin (Levaquin<sup>®</sup>)</li> <li>▪ Metronidazole (Flagyl<sup>®</sup>)</li> <li>▪ Piperacillin/Tazobactam (Zosyn<sup>®</sup>)</li> <li>▪ Vancomycin (Vancocin<sup>®</sup>)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Upset stomach</li> <li>▪ Diarrhea</li> <li>▪ Rash/flushing</li> <li>▪ Headache</li> </ul>
Helps with inflammation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Celecoxib (Celebrex<sup>®</sup>)</li> <li>▪ Dexamethasone (Decadron<sup>®</sup>)</li> <li>▪ Hydrocortisone (Cortef<sup>®</sup>)</li> <li>▪ Ibuprofen (Motrin<sup>®</sup>)</li> <li>▪ Ketorolac (Toradol<sup>®</sup>)</li> <li>▪ Prednisone</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Upset stomach</li> <li>▪ Sleeplessness</li> </ul>
Calms nerves or makes you sleepy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Diazepam (Valium<sup>®</sup>)</li> <li>▪ Lorazepam (Ativan<sup>®</sup>)</li> <li>▪ Midazolam (Versed<sup>®</sup>)</li> <li>▪ Oxazepam (Serax<sup>®</sup>)</li> <li>▪ Temazepam (Restoril<sup>®</sup>)</li> <li>▪ Zolpidem (Ambien<sup>®</sup>)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Dizziness/drowsiness</li> <li>▪ Headache</li> <li>▪ Confusion</li> </ul>

# Surgery and Recovery

## Preventing Complications

After surgery, your body is in a weakened state, and at a greater risk for infection and other health problems. You and your caregiver can do much to reduce the chance of postsurgical complications.

- Nurses will measure your blood pressure, temperature and pulse.
- Health care workers will regularly check your involved leg for movement, feeling and proper circulation.
- To improve circulation and strength, exercise.
- Wear white elastic socks (called TED stockings) to support your muscles, promote circulation and prevent blood clots.
- You will receive medication to prevent the development of blood clots.
- Use an incentive spirometer to help your respiratory system. Also perform deep breathing and coughing exercises.
- Your dressing and incision will be checked regularly. The dressing will be changed one to two days after surgery. Sutures or staples are usually removed 10 to 14 days after surgery.
- You may have a small tube inserted in your hip. It will draw out excess blood and fluid from the area around your incision. This small tube will be removed one to two days after surgery.
- You will have an I.V. for one or two days. It is important to drink six to eight glasses of water after your surgery and after your I.V. is removed. If you feel too nauseous to drink, talk to your nurse.
- Your nurse will order a regular diet when you have bowel sounds and can pass gas.
- Your inactivity, combined with your pain medication, can cause constipation. To help avoid this state, drink plenty of fluids, include fiber in your diet and increase your activity as you can. (For more information, see Chapter 6.)

If you have questions about any of these activities, please talk to your doctor or nurse.

# Surgery and Recovery

## A Word About Visitors

The first few days after your surgery, you'll spend much time learning how to use your new hip. Your health care team will balance this activity with your need for rest. The hospital is often the best place to get the rest you need to regain your strength. For this reason, we ask that you please verify the visiting hours on the orthopedic unit, and ask that your visitors respect them.

## Postsurgical Care Equipment

After surgery, you may need to use some special equipment to help speed your recovery.

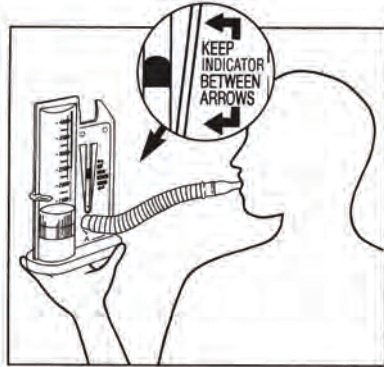
### Your surgeon may order the following:

- **Abductor Pillow:** This triangular pillow is strapped in place between your legs to help prevent hip dislocation
- **Cold Therapy Equipment:** This helps minimize swelling and reduce pain at your surgical site. This equipment can include an ice bag or a machine that circulates cold water.
- **Incentive Spirometer:** This is a breathing device that helps maintain healthy lungs after surgery
- **Patient Controlled Analgesia Machine:** This allows you to administer your own pain medication, and is generally used for one or two days after surgery
- **Sequential Compression Device/PlexiPulse Machine:** Either one of these machines may be used to increase circulation and help prevent blood clots
- **TED Stockings:** These white, elastic socks reduce the chance of blood clots forming in your legs after surgery. At first, you will wear these knee-or thigh-high stockings almost 24 hours a day.

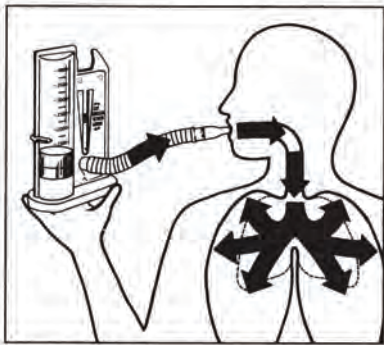
# Surgery and Recovery

## Postoperative Respiratory Exercises

An Incentive Spirometer is a device that assists in lung expansion. (Expanded lungs are healthier lungs.) You'll also find that taking slow, deep breaths and coughing periodically will help keep your lungs clear. Use the Incentive Spirometer several times a day, preferably every hour while awake. If you feel lightheaded or dizzy, you may be overdoing it. Stop and rest. Resume deep breathing when you feel better.



Exhale completely, then close your lips tightly around the mouthpiece. Inhale slowly and deeply, keeping the small, blue ball between the two arrows.



When you can't inhale anymore, hold your breath for six seconds. Then exhale slowly. Repeat as often as prescribed by your physician.



# Surgery and Recovery

## Patient Care Plan

The chart below lists some of the activities you should perform for optimal health and pain management in the days following your surgery. Please note that your individual care plan may vary from what is listed here.

Day of Surgery	First Day After Surgery
<p>Use abduction pillow/regular pillow as ordered to keep your legs apart to prevent hip dislocation.</p> <p><b>Activity Plan</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Turn to your side in bed with help</li> <li>• Do ankle pumps and quadricep exercises 10 times each hour while awake. (See Chapter 4)</li> </ul> <p><b>Pain Control</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use the pain scale</li> <li>• Use pain medication as needed</li> <li>• Tell your nurse of any effects of pain medication</li> <li>• Use cold therapy</li> </ul> <p><b>Breathing Exercises</b> (Do 10 times each hour while awake.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cough</li> <li>• Deep breathe</li> <li>• Use incentive spirometer</li> <li>• Use oxygen if ordered</li> </ul> <p><b>As Ordered by the Doctor</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• White elastic socks—TED stockings</li> <li>• Sequential Compression Device</li> </ul>	<p>Use a pillow under the calf only to keep your heel off the bed.</p> <p><b>Activity Plan</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A physical therapist will assist you out of bed and into a chair.</li> <li>• Move to the bedside commode with help during physical therapy</li> <li>• Turn to your side in bed with help</li> <li>• Participate in physical therapy twice daily (Take pain medication before therapy)</li> <li>• Do ankle pumps and quadricep exercises 10 times each hour while awake. (See Chapter 4)</li> <li>• Attend to personal hygiene</li> </ul> <p><b>Pain Control</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use the pain scale</li> <li>• Use pain medication as needed</li> <li>• Tell your nurse of any effects of pain medication</li> <li>• Use cold therapy</li> </ul> <p><b>Breathing Exercises</b> (Do 10 times each hour while awake.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cough</li> <li>• Deep breathe</li> <li>• Use incentive spirometer</li> <li>• Use oxygen if ordered</li> </ul> <p><b>As Ordered by the Doctor</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• White elastic socks—TED stockings</li> <li>• Sequential Compression Device</li> <li>• A social worker will evaluate your insurance for discharge planning</li> <li>• Home health care coordinator will set up your home health care equipment (walker/crutches/commode) as well as your home health care nurses and physical therapy</li> </ul>

# Surgery and Recovery

## Patient Care Plan (continued)

Second Day of Surgery	Reminder of Stay
<p>Use a pillow under calf only to keep heel off of bed.</p> <p><b>Activity Plan</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A physical therapist will assist you out of bed and into a chair.</li> <li>• Walk to the bathroom and in the halls with the help of a physical therapist and a walker.</li> <li>• Achieve bed mobility with minimal help.</li> <li>• Continue independent practice of hip exercise program.</li> <li>• Attend to personal hygiene.</li> </ul> <p><b>Pain Control</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use the pain scale.</li> <li>• Use pain medications as needed.</li> <li>• Tell your nurse of any effects of pain medication.</li> <li>• Use cold therapy.</li> </ul> <p><b>Breathing Exercises</b> (Do 10 times each hour while awake.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cough.</li> <li>• Deep breathe.</li> <li>• Use incentive spirometer.</li> <li>• Use oxygen if ordered.</li> </ul> <p><b>As Ordered by the Doctor</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Abduction pillow/regular pillow</li> <li>• White elastic socks—TED stockings</li> <li>• Knee Immobilizer</li> <li>• Sequential Compression Device</li> </ul> <p><b>Review Discharge Plan</b> Discuss with your health care team and your family your:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discharge destination</li> <li>• Equipment needed at home</li> <li>• Home help available</li> <li>• Transportation</li> <li>• Discharge date</li> <li>• Any discharge education needed</li> </ul>	<p><b>Activity Plan</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Walk to the bathroom and in the halls three or four times each day using a walker and with help from assistants.</li> <li>• Get in and out of your bed and chair.</li> <li>• Attend therapy sessions.</li> <li>• Continue hip exercises.</li> <li>• Attend to personal hygiene.</li> <li>• Wear white elastic socks—TED stockings.</li> </ul> <p><b>Pain Control</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use the pain scale.</li> <li>• Use pain medication as needed.</li> <li>• Use cold therapy.</li> </ul> <p><b>Breathing Exercises</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cough.</li> <li>• Deep breathe.</li> <li>• Use incentive spirometer.</li> </ul> <p><b>As Ordered by the Doctor</b> Plans you need to finalize include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Your discharge date and destination</li> <li>• Transportation</li> <li>• Home health care equipment</li> <li>• Support network of family and friends</li> <li>• Prescriptions received and filled</li> <li>• All of your questions answered</li> <li>• A social worker will organize your discharge planning.</li> <li>• A home health care coordinator will organize your discharge to your home.</li> </ul>

# Surgery and Recovery

## When Can I Go Home?

A smooth and speedy recovery depends on your following the activities laid out by health care professionals in your patient care plan. By strictly following this plan, you'll have a better chance of leaving the hospital sooner for home, or if needed, a rehabilitation center. Many patients can expect to leave the hospital in three to five days. These are patients who:

- Will be able to return to their own homes, or to family members' homes, after surgery
- Will be discharged to a prearranged skilled nursing facility or a rehabilitation center. (While length of stay in these facilities varies, most patients can expect to stay anywhere from three to seven days.)

# Surgery and Recovery

## Restrictions After Your Surgery

Your hip replacement should decrease pain, and help you return to a more active life. However, you must follow certain restrictions in movement as you heal from surgery.

- Do not cross your legs.
- Do not sit in a low, soft chair or sofa, or on a stool.
- Do not bend past 90 degrees at the hip.

Following these restrictions will help you heal faster, and reduce the risk of your dislocating your new hip during recovery.



Do not cross your legs.



Do not sit in a low, soft chair or sofa, or on a stool.



Do not bend past 90 degrees at the hip.

## Lifting, Bending and Carrying

For a time after your surgery, you will have to treat your body very gently. Consider the following when reaching for or carrying items, and when bending:

- Avoid bending down to reach low cupboards. Use an assisting device such as a reacher whenever possible. (See Chapter 7 for a description of a reacher.)
- Avoid carrying anything in your hands while using a walker or crutches. Use a walker bag, clothing pockets, a fanny pack or backpack to store personal items.
- Avoid far reaches
- Try using a rolling kitchen cart to carry heavy or hot items

# Caring for Yourself After Surgery

**Common Questions at Discharge**

**Questions for Your Follow-up Appointment**

**Your Home Exercise Program**

**What You Need to Know About Nutrition**

Chapter Six: Caring for Yourself After Surgery

# Caring for Yourself After Surgery

## Common Questions at Discharge

Before you go home, you will get specific instructions on your diet, medicines, exercise program, activity level, discharge equipment, follow-up appointment, and signs and symptoms to watch for. If you have any questions, ask your doctor or nurse. They want your recovery to be as smooth, and as speedy, as possible. The following are answers to some of the most common questions patients ask.

### What are my activity restrictions and how do I follow them?

Regular exercise makes you feel better about yourself, helps you manage your weight, improves muscle tone and keeps your joints flexible. But you need to balance exercise with rest. Plan on resting at least once or twice each day. Your home exercise program — developed by your health care team — will tell you what exercises to undertake, the proper technique for performing each and the number of repetitions you should complete. Please follow this program to the best of your ability. Doing so will help your body improve its strength and flexibility. If you choose not to perform these exercises, chances are you will feel weak and your joints will stiffen.

Follow these guidelines to prevent complications during the months following your hip replacement surgery.

- Place a regular pillow between your legs when lying on your side. The pillow will hold your legs in proper alignment.
- Avoid sudden movements.
- Do not twist your involved leg; take small steps when turning.
- When walking, point your big toe forward; don't turn your toe inward.
- When lying on your back, keep your toes pointed toward the ceiling.
- Do not stoop, kneel or use low furniture or toilets. As a rule, chairs, beds and toilets should stand at least 18 inches off the floor.
- Avoid sitting for more than an hour at a time—even if you're taking a long car ride. Instead, stop at least once every hour to stand, stretch or take a few steps.
- Don't cross your legs, at either the hip or ankle.
- Do not sit in a low, soft chair, sofa or stool. Do not sit in a rocking chair or recliner.
- Do not bend your hip more than 90 degrees.

# Caring for Yourself After Surgery

## Common Questions at Discharge (continued)

### How soon can I take a bath or shower?

- You can shower after your sutures or staples are removed, usually 10 to 14 days after surgery. Alternately, you may shower when your incision has grown dry and clean, and when your physician says it's okay.
- Use a tub bench. This offers you extra support and comfort until you become more mobile.
- Do not sit in the bathtub.

### How do I care for my incision?

Your surgeon will arrange for a home health nurse to change your dressing, if needed.

### When can I return to my regular eating habits?

Proper nutrition will help you recover quickly and feel your best. What you eat after your surgery will greatly affect your well-being. You need to eat well-balanced meals and drink lots of fluids.

- Resume a healthy diet as soon as you can.
- Do not skip meals. Eating three balanced meals each day is essential to maintaining your health.
- Eat a balanced diet, including offerings from all the basic food groups: dairy, meat, fruits, vegetables and grains.

More information on nutrition appears later in this chapter.

### I'm feeling constipated. Why?

Constipation can be caused by pain medicine, iron tablets, improper diet, decreased activity and any combination of these. You can relieve constipation by:

- Drinking six to eight glasses of water each day.
- Keeping active.
- Increasing the fiber in your diet. Eat whole grain breads, bran cereals, fresh fruits and vegetables.
- Decreasing the use of your pain medicine, when appropriate.

Talk to your doctor if your constipation persists. He or she may prescribe medication to relieve the problem.

# Caring for Yourself After Surgery

## Common Questions at Discharge (continued)

### When can I drive?

Ask your surgeon when you can drive. Once you receive his or her go-ahead, remember not to drive while taking pain medication. These medications can impair your judgment and limit your ability to drive safely.

### When can I go back to work?

You need to talk to your doctor about the appropriate time for you to return to your work and hobbies.

### What medical precautions should I keep in mind?

Inform your doctors and dentists of your hip replacement before undergoing any surgery, podiatric procedure or dental work. You may need to take antibiotics before these appointments/procedures.

### Why am I setting off metal detectors at airports?

Part of your new prosthesis is made of metal. Ask your surgeon for an implant identification card. Keep it with you at all times, especially when you have to pass through metal detectors. You should allow additional time to pass through airport security stations.

### How long do I need to wear white elastic socks?

Wear them constantly until your first doctor visit after surgery. You may only take them off twice a day, for 15 minutes each time. You may also wash and dry them, but put them back on immediately.

### When can I start having sex again?

Talk with your doctor about when it is safe for you to have sex again. When you do decide to become intimate, use a firm mattress. Remain the passive partner for the first six weeks after surgery. (For example, the bottom partner in the missionary position.) Keep your involved leg straight and toes pointed toward the ceiling during intercourse.

### When do I need to see my doctor for follow-up?

Call your doctor's office to schedule a follow-up appointment. See the following page for a list of questions to ask during this visit.



# Caring for Yourself After Surgery

## Common Questions at Discharge (continued)

### Are there certain postsurgical symptoms that I should call my doctor about?

Yes. In general, you want to call your doctor if:

- Your involved leg is cool to the touch, a dusky color, grows numb or tingles
- You develop a temperature of 101 degrees or higher, and start experiencing chills
- Your incision starts draining or grows swollen, warm, red and painful
- Your incision bleeds a bright red
- You have discomfort that is not relieved by prescribed medicine, rest or cold therapy
- You develop burning or urgency when urinating, or if your urine has a foul odor

**If you develop pain in your chest, call 911. This is a medical emergency.**

## Questions for Your Follow-up Appointment

Use this checklist to keep track of the questions you may want to ask your doctor during your follow-up appointment.

### Can I:

- Lie in bed on either side? On my involved hip?
- Lie in bed without using a pillow between my legs? If not, how long do I need to keep using the pillow?
- Stop wearing TED socks? If not, how long do I need to keep wearing them?
- Take a bath?
- Start walking with a cane? If not, when do you think I can start walking with a cane?
- Drive a car? If not, when will I be able to drive?
- Increase my leisure activities? (Traveling, golfing, dancing?)
- Other questions. (Use space below to list any additional questions you may have.)

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# Caring for Yourself After Surgery

## Your Home Exercise Program

Once you return home, continue your exercises to prevent complications and to build strength as you increase activity.

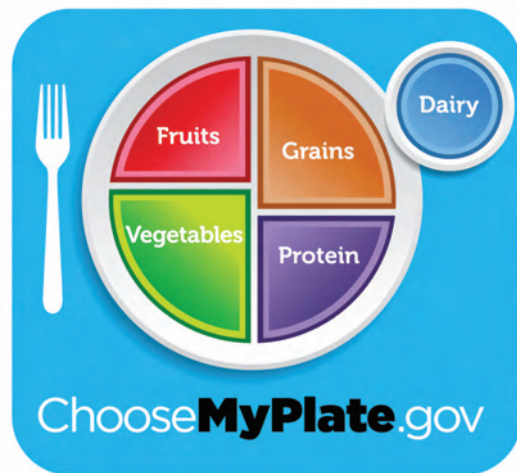
Your leg muscles probably feel weak. Surgery corrected your hip problem, and a program of regular exercise will strengthen your weakened muscles. Your success with rehabilitation now largely depends on your commitment to following the exercise program.

Your exercise program will be individually tailored by a home health physical therapist, or by your doctor.

# Caring for Yourself After Surgery

## What You Need to Know About Nutrition

“MyPlate” is based on the 2010 Dietary Guidelines for Americans to help consumers make better food choices.



“MyPlate” illustrates the five food groups that are the building blocks for a healthy diet, using a familiar image – a place setting for a meal. Before you eat, think about what goes on your plate or in your cup or bowl. Here is just a snapshot of how you can eat healthy.

- Make half your plate fruits and vegetables.
- Fruits: Any fruit (fresh, canned, frozen or dried) or 100 percent fruit juice counts.
- Vegetables: Vary your veggies.
- Grains: Make at least half your grains whole grains.
- Protein: Choose lean protein and keep it lean as you prepare it.
- Dairy: Get your calcium-rich foods.

## Nutrients to Help You Heal

Nutrients can be found in many sources and can contribute to speeding your recovery, including:

### Protein

Meat, poultry, seafood, eggs, dairy products and peanut butter

### Zinc

Seafood, meat and poultry (best source), whole-grain cereals and breads, dairy products

### Fluids

Water, juice and gelatin

# Caring for Yourself After Surgery

## What You Need to Know About Nutrition (continued)

### Calcium

For your bone health and general well-being, plan on getting a minimum of 1,200 to 1,500mg of calcium every day. The best food sources include:

- Milk—whole, reduced-fat or nonfat
- Yogurt
- Hard cheese or cottage cheese
- Salmon, mackerel or sardines (canned with bones)
- Broccoli
- Greens—collard, turnip, mustard, spinach and kale
- Calcium-fortified foods—read the labels

#### Tips:

- Drinking too many soft drinks may keep your body from using the calcium found in foods.
- You can meet your day's requirement for calcium by consuming three 8-ounce glasses of milk, 1 ounce of reduced-fat cheese and one serving of leafy green vegetables.

### Iron

Red meats, egg yolk, chicken, turkey

### Vitamin A

Dark green leafy vegetables, deep orange and yellow vegetables and fruits (such as spinach, winter squash, carrots, sweet potatoes, melons, peaches, pumpkins and apricots), milk and dairy products, liver, egg yolk

### Vitamin C

Citrus fruits and juices, broccoli, green pepper, spinach, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, strawberries, tomatoes, potatoes, cantaloupe

# Back at Home

## Discharge Equipment

To ensure a safe recovery, you will need to use some special equipment. This chapter describes the items you may need.

At the very least, following your hip surgery you must have:

- A Walking Aid: This can be a walker, a set of crutches or a cane
- A 3-In-1 Commode: This is a raised toilet seat set in an enclosed aluminum stand. It can be used in any room, or placed over your bathroom toilet. It gives you the extra lift hip patients need after surgery. Remember, you don't want to sit on anything low — be it a sofa or a toilet.

Insurance will cover the purchase of a walking aid and commode. You will probably have to pay for other items out of pocket. Read “Where to Find Equipment” for ideas on where these items can be purchased or rented.



## Back at Home

### Discharge Equipment (continued)



A hand-held shower head lets you control the spray of water. Use it while sitting on your tub bench.



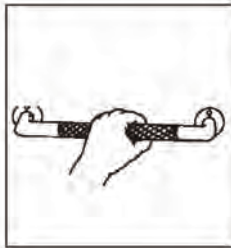
Elastic laces let you slip in and out of your shoes easily while keeping them tied. A long-handled shoe horn helps you guide your foot into the shoe.



A sock aid will help you put on socks without bending.



A long-handled sponge can be used to wash your feet, eliminating your need to bend.



Grab bars installed in the bathtub and shower will help you stay safe while climbing in and out.



A reacher will enable you to access items stored above or below waist level.

# Back at Home

## Where to Find Equipment

The following is a list of places where you can purchase or lease the equipment you will need after surgery. If you are able to obtain these items before surgery, your discharge will go more smoothly.

- Call local drugstores to see what selections of health equipment they carry.
- Obtain a department store health care catalog. It will detail a variety of equipment you can buy.
- Look in the Yellow Pages' "handicapped services equipment" or "home care services" sections to find retailers specializing in this equipment.
- BayCare HomeCare is a regional corporation selling health care items. They will deliver these goods to your home. Call (800) 940-5151.

# Back at Home

## My Medical Questions

Use this page to jot down questions to ask your doctor, nurse, physical therapist or any member of your medical team.

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## Notes

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## A Final Note

The total hip replacement program at St. Anthony’s Hospital, wants to ease your pain, and to help you regain your independence. Following the instructions in this manual will help ensure that you heal as completely and as quickly as possible. If you have any questions about the material appearing here, please make sure to consult a member of your team from St. Anthony’s Hospital. He or she will be happy to talk with you.



## HANDS, EYES AND HEARTS for Our Patients

Welcome and thank you for choosing St. Anthony's Hospital!

Our team members are dedicated to providing excellent care. For your safety and holistic care, our staff will consistently provide our Hands, Eyes and Hearts service. What is Hands, Eyes and Hearts?



**I Own  
Patient Satisfaction**

**Step 1. Hands:** When providing you with quality care, our team members will wash their hands upon entering and exiting your room to prevent the spread of infection.

**Step 2. Eyes:** When appropriate, team members will check and verify your name and date of birth against the information on your ID band.

**Step 3. Hearts:** Once your exceptional care is complete, team members will ask you if there is anything else they may do for you or get for you.

The Hands, Eyes and Hearts quality of service is complimentary with your stay. Please feel free to question a team member regarding these services. We are here to honor your dignity, treat you with respect and earn your trust as we deliver the highest standard of care to our patients and their families.

Yours in good health,

*William G. Ulbricht, President*

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# Chapter One: General Information

**Welcome to the Total Hip Replacement Program**

**Your St. Anthony's Team**

**On the Big Day**

Chapter One: General Information

# General Information

## Welcome to the Total Hip Replacement Program

Learning as much as you can about total hip replacement in the days before your surgery will help you play a more active role in your recovery. That's why our health care professionals developed this book. It is our hope that it will increase your general knowledge of total hip replacement. This book will also help you prepare for surgery, and guide you through recovery.

Because we wanted to give you as much information as possible, you may find this book a little overwhelming at first glance. We suggest you read it at a leisurely pace. But do try to read the entire manual before arriving for surgery.

**Bring this book with you when you come to the hospital for your hip replacement.** Review with your doctors, nurses, physical therapists, case managers/social workers and occupational therapists any questions you may have. They will address your concerns, guide you through the surgery itself, and help you and your family to create a recovery plan.

*This book has been prepared only for your information. It should not be considered a substitute for medical advice.*

# General Information

## Your St. Anthony's Team

Your orthopedic surgeon is supported by a strong and talented team. These team members will help you prepare for surgery, make your hospital stay as comfortable as possible, and help you recover as quickly as possible. Members of your team include:

### Nurses

St. Anthony's Nurses will coordinate your activities while at the hospital. They will help you learn how to move your body after surgery. They will also take charge of your personal care, pain management and discharge planning.

### Physical Therapists

Physical therapists will develop an exercise program specifically designed to strengthen your new hip and the muscles surrounding it. They will also teach you how to safely use a walker or crutches.

### Occupational Therapists

After surgery, you may find daily tasks have become difficult. Getting in and out of bed, dressing yourself, showering and washing the dishes may all seem challenging in the days immediately following your surgery. A St. Anthony's occupational therapist may be ordered to teach you simple techniques to make activities of daily living easier.

### Social Workers

Social workers will help you plan your release from the hospital. They will also communicate with your family and friends. During these discussions, social workers identify the support that your relatives and friends can provide during your recovery period, and educate them (and you!) on the community resources available to help you until you regain your complete independence. These professionals will also help you understand your insurance benefits. While staying at St. Anthony's you may also meet other health care professionals. These include hospital health, dietary and respiratory care staff.

# General Information

## On the Big Day

You'll have a lot to think about on the day of your hip surgery. The last thing you want to worry about is where to park your car. By providing the information below, we hope to clarify all the specifics of your hospital stay. We hope to ease your mind.

## Surgical Time and Admission Information

### Surgical Time

Your surgeon's office will call you before your scheduled surgery. They will let you know what time to arrive at the hospital and where to check in.

### Parking

There is a valet service for your convenience at the main parking garage.

## Other Important Phone Numbers

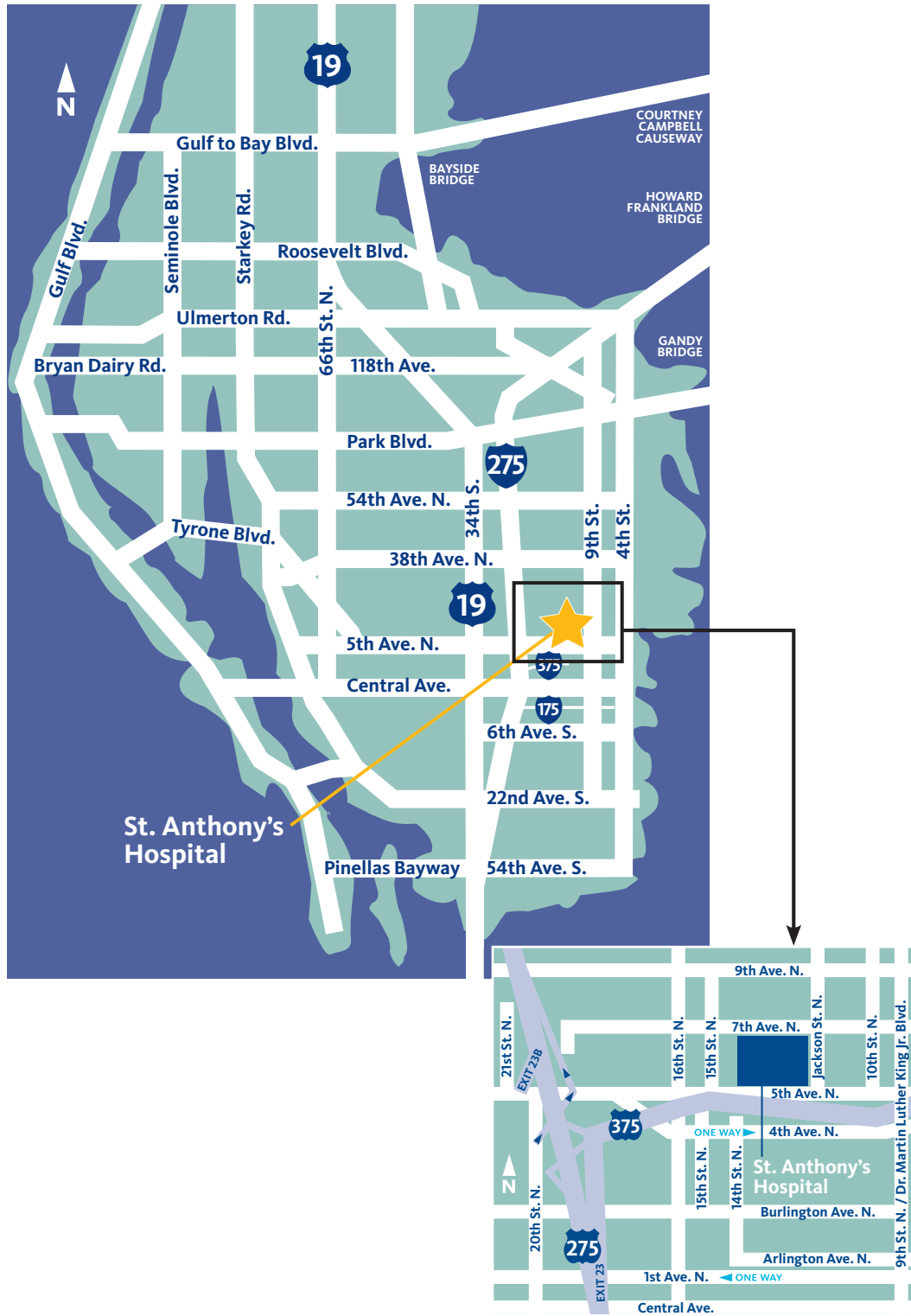
**Pre-admission nurse: (727) 820-7767**

**Preoperative registration: (727) 820-7727**

**Preoperative testing: (727) 820-7789**

# General Information

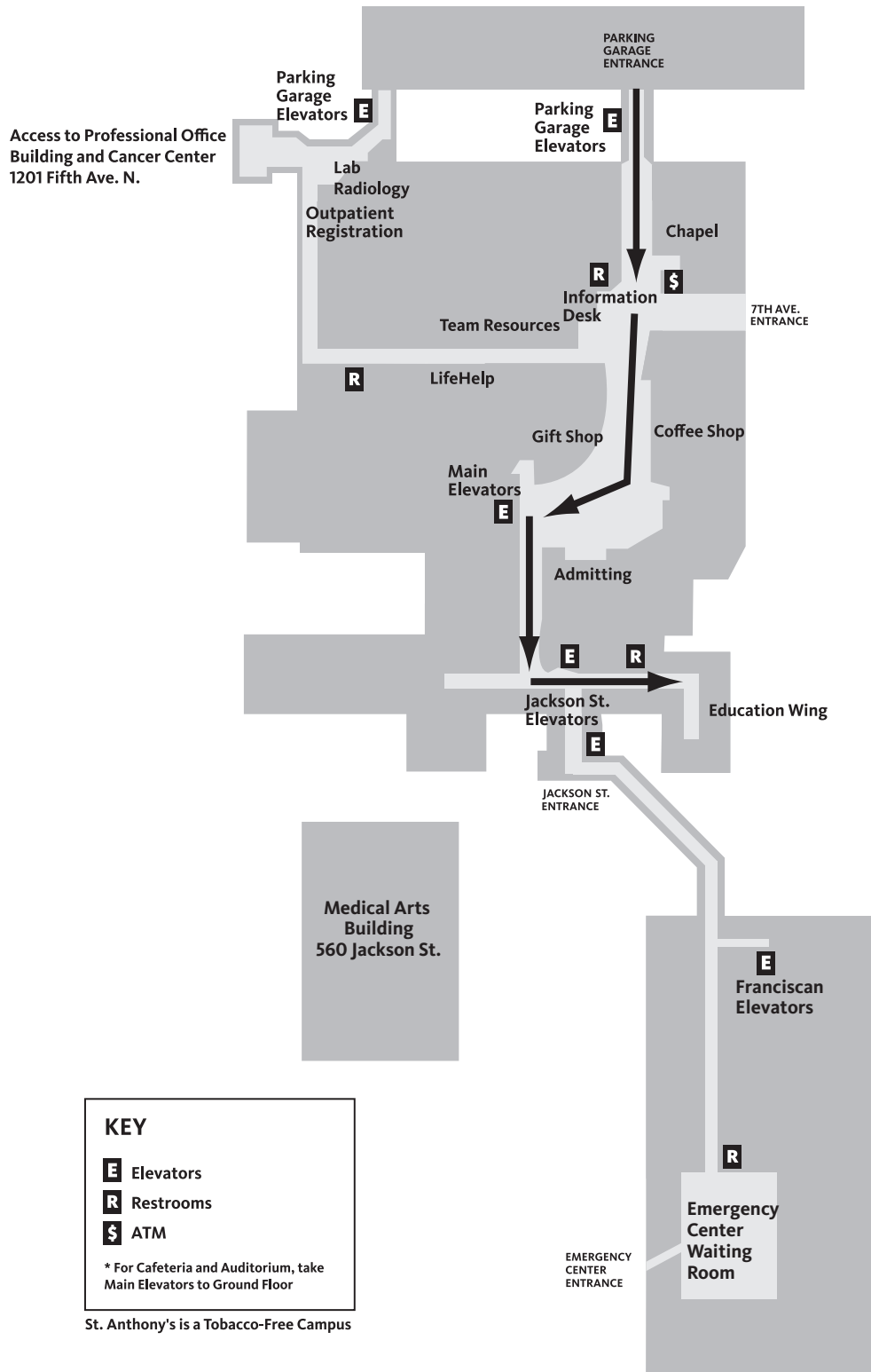
## How to Find St. Anthony's Hospital





# General Information

## St. Anthony's Hospital First Floor Map



# Meet Your Hip

**The Normal Hip**

**The Problem Hip**

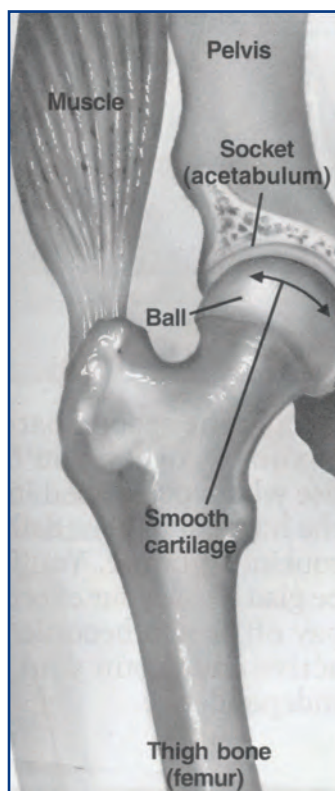
**Your New Hip**

Chapter Two: Meet Your Hip

# Meet Your Hip

## The Normal Hip

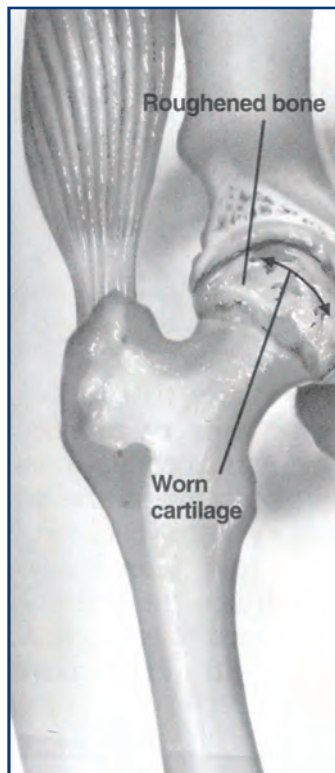
Your hip consists of a ball and socket. Both are constructed of bones. The head of the thigh bone (technically, the femur) constitutes the ball. The socket consists of a section of your pelvis called the acetabulum. In a normal hip, a smooth layer of tissue (called cartilage) separates the ball and the socket. Cartilage allows the ball to glide easily inside the socket. It cushions your hip joint. Muscle and ligaments hold your hip joint in place.



# Meet Your Hip

## The Problem Hip

Sometimes, cartilage wears out. It no longer cushions the hip ball and socket. The hip joint can no longer move smoothly. As the cartilage continues to wear away, your bones rub together. The ball grinds in the socket when you move your leg. This condition causes pain. As the pain worsens and you move around less, the muscles surrounding your joint weaken. They become less stable and less able to support your body weight. A total hip replacement can often relieve your pain and muscular instability.

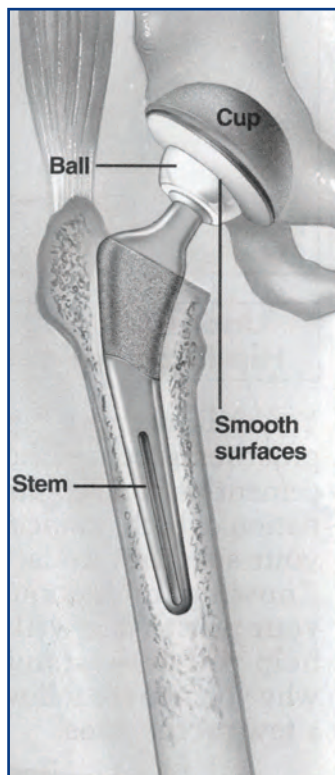


# Meet Your Hip

## The New Hip

During total hip replacement surgery, an orthopedic surgeon removes damaged bone and cartilage from the hip joint, and replaces them with an artificial joint. A prosthetic ball connected to a stem replaces the ball of your thigh bone. A prosthetic cup replaces the worn socket. These parts connect to create a new artificial hip. Both parts have smooth surfaces to help ensure comfortable movement once you have recovered from surgery.

Your prosthesis will be constructed of polyethylene (a wear-resistant plastic) and metal. Usually, the metal sections of the prosthesis are built from titanium, stainless steel or cobalt. The artificial ball and socket are held in place by bone cement, by your own bone growing into the prosthesis or by a combination of both.



# Getting Ready for Surgery

**Medical History, Physical Exam**

**Insurance Coverage**

**Blood Transfusion Choices**

**Health Care Directives**

**Discharge Planning**

Chapter Three: Getting Ready for Surgery

# Getting Ready for Surgery

## Medical History, Physical Exam

No surgical procedure can take place without us first taking a good look at your overall health. In order for your orthopedic surgeon to do his or her job to the best of his or her ability, he or she needs to know about your medical history. The surgeon also needs to ensure that you are healthy enough to undergo hip replacement.

The week before your surgery, visit your primary care physician for a health history and physical exam. The exam will determine your current health status. (If you're wondering when to make your appointment, **now** is a good time to call.)

You may be directed to continue taking any general health medications up until the day of your surgery. Conversely, you may need to stop taking certain medicines before checking into the hospital. **Please talk with your doctor about which medications to take, and which to stop, before your surgery.**

**It is very important that you tell your primary care physician about any medication you may be taking, prescription or over-the-counter.** Aspirin products and anti-inflammatory medications such as ibuprofen (the active ingredient in Advil and Motrin), naproxen (Aleve), piroxicam (Feldene), nabumetone (Relafen) and oxaprozin (Daypro) will need to be stopped several days before your surgery. This may also be true for diet pills, vitamin E and herbal supplements such as echinacea, ephedra, garlic, ginkgo, ginseng, kava and St. John's Wort.

# Getting Ready for Surgery

## Insurance Coverage

Health care benefits are constantly changing. It is important for you to understand your benefits before undergoing surgery. Call your insurance provider to find out exactly what your plan covers, and what it doesn't.

## Blood Transfusion Choices

Your surgeon will try to keep your blood loss to a minimum. Still, you may need a transfusion during your surgery.

### **Blood for your transfusion can be obtained from the following sources:**

- **From the public:** This is the most common way blood is donated and received. Any healthy person can donate blood — typically, to an organization such as Florida Blood Services. That blood is later used when someone with the same blood type needs a transfusion. Donors are carefully screened, and their blood is tested for diseases such as AIDS, HIV and hepatitis. If you choose to simply accept donated blood, you need make no further preparations for your possible transfusion.
- **From a family member or friend:** This type of blood donation (sometimes called a directed donation) occurs when a family member or friend donates blood for you. (Remember, any family member or friend donating must have the same blood type as you.) Your friend or family member will undergo the same screening and testing as general donors do. To arrange for a directed donation, please call Florida Blood Services. (You may want to know that there is no evidence that blood from directed donors is any safer than the blood available from the general blood supply.)
- **From yourself:** You can donate your blood from six weeks to 14 days before your surgery. It will be used during your surgery if needed, and thrown away if not. You must check with your physician to make sure it is safe for you to donate your own blood. Because blood donations can make you anemic, your doctor may want you to take an iron supplement during the period you are donating. If you wish to donate your own blood, you must make arrangements with Florida Blood Services.

**A listing of Florida Blood Services offices appears on the following page.**



# Getting Ready for Surgery

## Blood Transfusion Choices (continued)

If you choose to donate your own blood, you will need to make an appointment by calling Florida Blood Services at any of the numbers below.

### Pinellas County—(727) 568-5433

Clearwater Office  
1680-1682 S. Missouri Ave.  
(727) 582-9500

St. Petersburg Office  
10100 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. St. N.  
(727) 568-5433, ext. 2112

Tyrone Office  
1700 66th St. N., Suite 102  
(727) 384-4145

Largo Office  
11401 Belcher Road, Suite E  
(727) 544-5050, ext. 2583

### Pasco County—(727) 819-5433

Hudson Office  
7214 State Road 52  
(727) 819-5433, ext. 3100

Wesley Chapel Office  
5319 Village Market  
(813) 929-6500

### Hillsborough County—(813) 632-5433

Tampa Office  
5301 E. Fletcher Ave.  
(813) 903-2600

Brandon Office  
727-A W. Lumsden Road  
(813) 661-4528

Plant City Office  
1902 James L. Redman Parkway  
(813) 752-7638

Northdale Office  
15427 N. Dale Mabry Highway  
(813) 964-1354

For information regarding blood donation, call **(800) 68-BLOOD (800-682-5663)** or visit **FBSBlood.org**.

# Getting Ready for Surgery

## Health Care Directives

A health care directive (also known as a living will) gives a person of your choice the power to act on your behalf during any medical emergency you may suffer. This document is used to ensure that your wishes are followed even if you are no longer able to communicate them yourself.

### A health care directive goes into effect when:

- You are in a coma or near death
- You cannot communicate your wishes through speech, in writing or by gestures

If you don't yet have a living will, you may request one when you are being admitted to the hospital. Just ask an admissions representative for a living will form.

Since the medical team must know of your medical directives in order to enforce them, **please bring a copy of your living will to the hospital with you.** It will become part of your records.

## Discharge Planning

Our goal is to have you ready to go home after your hospital stay. After all, that is where we would all like to be! However, there may be occasions when you need to have further rehabilitation. Planning for discharge is important. We will work with you and your family to develop a discharge plan that will help you make discharge arrangements before surgery.

## Home Health Care

Most patients will need help beyond what family and friends can provide. Home health workers can bridge that gap. These include physical and occupational therapists, home health aides and nurses. Home health workers help you walk, regain strength and complete daily living tasks. They also monitor your condition and safety.

### You are a candidate for returning home (with the help of home health) if you can:

- Get in and out of bed or a chair with minimal help
- Walk with a walker, crutches or cane
- Walk from your bedroom to your bathroom, and from your bedroom to your kitchen
- Safely navigate any stairs in your home

# Getting Ready for Surgery

## Discharge to a Skilled Nursing Facility or Rehabilitation Center

Some patients need more help than home health can provide. They may need skilled nursing care and/or rehabilitation. In a skilled nursing or rehabilitation center, you can continue your rehabilitation before returning home. Therapy helps you build strength and endurance, with a goal of returning home as soon as possible.

St. Anthony's Hospital has a Skilled Nursing Unit located in the hospital. Our case manager/social worker will discuss your options with you.

Talk with professionals in your orthopedic surgeon's office and ask them to identify a facility that's right for you.

In order to ensure a smooth transition from the hospital to your nursing facility or rehabilitation center, you should complete the following tasks **before** checking in to our hospital.

- Identify three skilled nursing facilities with which you feel comfortable, and which can provide the services needed by total hip replacement patients.
- Call your insurance company to ensure it will cover your stay at these facilities.
- If possible, visit each of these facilities before your surgery. If a personal visit is not possible, call to place yourself on their admissions lists. The staff of these facilities will need your name, date of surgery and possible date of discharge from St. Anthony's. (Most hip replacement patients are discharged from St. Anthony's three to four days after surgery.)

When you arrive at St. Anthony's, give your nurse or social worker a list of the facilities you have contacted. Use the form below.

Facility Name	Facility Telephone Number
1. _____	(    ) _____
2. _____	(    ) _____
3. _____	(    ) _____

# Caring for Yourself—Pre-surgery Preparations

**Pre-surgery Strengthening Program**

**Pre-surgery Progress Chart**

**Pre-surgery Mobility Exercises**

**Preparing Your Home for Your Return**

**If You Live Alone**

**What to Pack**

**The Day Before Your Surgery**

**The Morning of Your Surgery**

# Caring for Yourself—Pre-surgery Preparations

## Pre-surgery Strengthening Program

Because of your hip discomfort, you may have been living a less active life than you'd like. Having your hip replaced will correct your joint problem, but it won't strengthen the muscles surrounding your hip. That's up to you.

When muscles aren't used, they grow weak and fail to support the body properly. You need a regular exercise program to strengthen your muscles, so that they in turn can support your new joint. Starting this exercise program before your surgery can make for a much easier recovery.

The following pages list several exercises you can perform before surgery. Because everyone responds to exercise differently, only you can judge how much exercise to complete each day. If an exercise causes an increase in your hip pain, stop doing it.

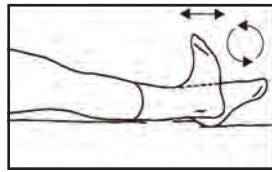
Try to exercise once or twice each day. (Keep track of your progress on the chart provided later in this chapter.) Begin several weeks before your surgery. You should start by performing five repetitions of each exercise. If you can, increase the number of repetitions by five each week until you can perform each exercise 20 times.

You can complete most exercises while lying down. Your bed is an excellent spot on which to perform these exercises.

# Caring for Yourself—Pre-surgery Preparations

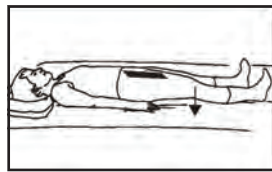
## Pre-surgery Strengthening Program (continued)

### Hip Exercises—Before Surgery



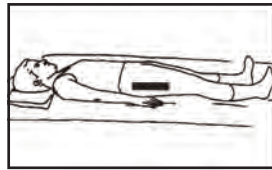
#### Ankle Pumps and Circles

Lie on your back with a pillow supporting your head. Bend both your ankles up, pulling your toes toward you, then bend both your ankles down, pointing your toes away from you. In addition, rotate your foot clockwise and counterclockwise, keeping your toes pointed toward the ceiling.



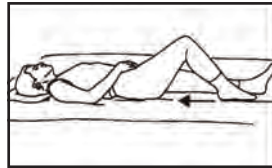
#### Thigh Squeezes

Lie on your back with a pillow supporting your head. Tighten the muscles in the front of your thigh by pushing the back of your knees down onto the bed. Hold for five seconds.



#### Buttocks Squeezes

Lie on your back with a pillow supporting your head. Squeeze the muscles of your buttocks together. Tighten the muscles. Hold for five seconds.



#### Heel Slides

Lie on your back with a pillow supporting your head. Bend your knee by sliding your heel up toward your buttocks. Keep your heel on the bed. Keep your kneecap pointed toward the ceiling throughout the exercise. You may want to place a cookie sheet under your heel to help it slide more easily.



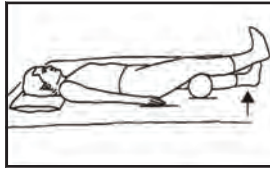
#### Leg Slides

Which side of your hip is scheduled for joint replacement? That is called your “involved” side. Lie flat on your bed, and slide that leg out to the side, keeping your kneecap pointed toward the ceiling. Slide your leg back and return to the starting position.

# Caring for Yourself—Pre-surgery Preparations

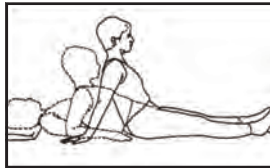
## Pre-surgery Strengthening Program (continued)

### Hip Exercises—Before Surgery (continued)



#### Lying Kicks

Lie on your back with a 3-pound coffee can or rolled blanket under your involved knee (if your left hip will be operated on, use your left knee for this exercise). Straighten your knee. Hold for five seconds. The back of your knee should stay in contact with the can or blanket throughout the exercise.



#### Bed Mobility Exercise

Lie flat on your back. Rise up onto both elbows. Straighten your arms out behind you and come to a sitting position. Lower yourself down onto your elbows again, then lie flat.



#### Sitting Kicks

Sit in a sturdy chair. Lift your involved leg (the leg on the side of your body slated for surgery) and straighten your knee as much as possible. Hold for five seconds. Return to the starting position and relax.



#### Chair Push-up

Sit on a sturdy chair with arms. Grasp the arms of the chair. Push down on the chair arms, straightening your elbows so that you raise your buttocks off the seat. Lower yourself slowly back into the chair. If your arms are weak at first, use your legs to help raise your buttocks off the chair.

# Caring for Yourself—Pre-surgery Preparations

## Pre-surgery Strengthening Program (continued)

### Optional Hip Exercises—Before Surgery



#### Hamstring Sets

Lie on your back with a pillow supporting your head. Bend your involved knee a little and tighten the muscle on the back of your thigh by digging your heel into the bed. Hold for five seconds.



#### Abduction Sets

Lie on your back with a pillow supporting your head. Tighten muscles on the outside of your thigh by pushing the involved leg outward against an immovable object. Hold for five seconds.



#### Straight Leg Raises

Lie on your back with a pillow supporting your head. Bend your uninvolved leg. Keep your foot flat on the bed. Raise your involved leg about 12 inches, keeping your knee straight. Hold briefly. Progress to holding for five seconds.



#### Bridging

Slowly raise your buttocks from the bed, keeping your stomach muscles tight. Hold. Slowly lower your buttocks onto the bed. Relax.



# Caring for Yourself—Pre-surgery Preparations

## Pre-surgery Progress Chart

Keep track of your exercise progress by checking off the exercises you've completed, and the days you've completed them. You may also want to record how many repetitions of each exercise you were able to complete.

EXERCISE	WEEK ONE							WEEK TWO							WEEK THREE							WEEK FOUR						
	M	T	W	TH	F	S	S	M	T	W	TH	F	S	S	M	T	W	TH	F	S	S	M	T	W	TH	F	S	S
<input type="checkbox"/> Ankle Pumps/Circles																												
<input type="checkbox"/> Thigh Squeezes																												
<input type="checkbox"/> Buttocks Squeezes																												
<input type="checkbox"/> Heel Slides																												
<input type="checkbox"/> Leg Slides																												
<input type="checkbox"/> Lying Kicks																												
<input type="checkbox"/> Bed Mobility Exercise																												
<input type="checkbox"/> Sitting Kicks																												
<input type="checkbox"/> Chair Push-up																												
<b>OPTIONAL EXERCISES</b>																												
<input type="checkbox"/> Hamstring Sets																												
<input type="checkbox"/> Abduction Sets																												
<input type="checkbox"/> Straight Leg Raises																												
<input type="checkbox"/> Bridging																												

# Caring for Yourself—Pre-surgery Preparations

## Pre-surgery Mobility Exercises

Until your hip heals from surgery, you may need to learn how to move differently even when performing the most common tasks. Getting in and out of bed, for example, or getting on and off a chair. Practice the following mobility techniques.

### Getting in Bed

- Back up against the bed until you feel it hit the back of your legs.
- Place your involved leg forward. (Remember, your involved leg is the leg on the side of your body scheduled for surgery.)
- Reach for the bed surface, lowering yourself slowly to the edge.
- Scoot back on the bed until your hips feel supported.
- Ask for help from someone in your home, or use a cane, crutch or belt to lift your involved leg onto the bed.

### Getting Out of Bed

- Come to a sitting position in the bed.
- As you turn your body to get out of bed, ask for help from someone in your home, or use a cane, crutch or belt to help get your involved leg out of bed.
- Place your involved leg forward.
- Push off the bed and stand up.
- Do not reach for a walking device until your balance is secure.



### Sitting On a Chair or Toilet

- To sit down, back up against the chair or toilet until you feel it hit the back of your legs.
- Place your involved leg forward.
- Reach back with both hands and sit down.

### Getting Off a Chair or Toilet

- Place your involved leg forward
- Push off with your arms
- Do not reach for a walking device until your balance is secure.

# Caring for Yourself—Pre-surgery Preparations

## Pre-surgery Mobility Exercises (continued)

### Sitting in an Armless Chair

- Approach the chair from the side.
- Place your involved leg forward.
- Reach back for the side edge of the chair and sit down, then turn yourself face-forward.

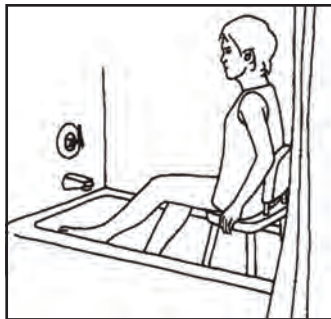
### Getting Out of an Armless Chair

- Turn yourself so you are sitting sideways in the chair.
- Place your involved leg forward.
- Push up from the chair with both hands.
- Do not reach for a walking device until your balance is secure.

### Getting in the Shower/Tub

For a time after surgery, you may need handrails or grab bars to help support yourself getting in and out of the shower. In addition, ask someone to stand nearby to provide assistance, if needed. Since everyone's tub and shower setup varies, it's a good idea to talk to your occupational therapist. He or she can give you some tips for your bathroom.

- Buy a tub bench. Have it installed in your bathtub or shower.
- Approach the bench from the side, then place your involved leg forward.
- Reach back for the edge of the tub bench and sit down.
- Ask for help from someone in your home, or use a cane, crutch or belt to lift your involved leg into the tub.



### Getting Out of the Shower/Tub

- Use a cane, crutch or belt, or ask someone in your home to lift your involved leg out of the tub.
- Push up from the bench with both hands.
- Do not reach for a walking device until your balance is secure.

# Caring for Yourself—Pre-surgery Preparations

## Pre-surgery Mobility Exercises (continued)

### How to Go Up and Down the Stairs

Your therapist will review the specifics of stair climbing with you but, in general:

- Remember to go up the steps leading with your good leg, then bring your involved leg up to the same step. You can remember this technique with the phrase, “Up with the good.”
- When descending the stairs, lead with your involved leg, then bring your good leg down to the same step. The phrase “Down with the bad” applies.

# Caring for Yourself—Pre-surgery Preparations

## Pre-surgery Mobility Exercises (continued)

### Getting in a Car

Placing a large plastic bag on the car seat will help you move more easily. Anytime you're getting in or out of a car, ask the driver to park about 4 feet from the curb edge. Also ask him or her to avoid inclines. Then:

- Back up to your car seat. Place your involved leg forward.
- Reach back and find something to hold onto with your hand—a dashboard, seatback or stable car door will do
- Slowly lower yourself onto the seat
- Scoot back into the car seat. Ask for help from a friend, or use a cane, crutch or belt to lift your involved leg as you bring your legs into the car.



### Getting Out of a Car

- Slide closer to the driver's seat. Ask for help, or use a cane, crutch or belt to lift your involved leg out of the car.
- Scoot to the edge of the seat, and place your feet on the street (on the street, not the curb). Place your involved leg forward.
- As described in "Getting In a Car," hold onto something with your hand. Push with your arms and use your uninvolved leg to stand.
- Do not reach for your walking device until your balance is secure

# Caring for Yourself—Pre-surgery Preparations

## Preparing Your Home for Your Return

Homecoming should be a joyful experience for you. To make the transition from hospital or rehabilitation center to home as happy, and as safe, as possible, you may want to rearrange some of the items in your house. Consider the following:

- Move frequently used items in the kitchen, bathroom, bedroom and workshop to tabletops, or to any surfaces sitting roughly at waist level. The items you'll probably move include shoes, clothing, food, medications, toiletries and toilet paper.
- Move low tables away from your couch and your chairs
- Make sure there are clear pathways leading from your bedroom to your kitchen, and from your bedroom to your bathroom. Eliminate clutter around the house.
- Remove all throw rugs from your floors
- Are your stair railings secure? If not, fix them. If you're constructing a new railing on your stairs, make sure it extends a few inches past the end of the staircase.
- If your bathroom isn't on the first floor of your home, you may want to consider some temporary relief options. For example, you may want to purchase a portable commode.
- Install grab bars in your bathtub or shower. You may also want to place them by the toilet.
- Purchase a tub bench
- Apply adhesive slip strips to your tub or shower
- Consider using liquid soap (in a dispenser) rather than bar soap
- Place a phone in your primary sitting area, and near your bed. You'll find cordless phones very convenient. If you are home alone, you should carry a cordless phone in your walker bag or fanny pack. In case of an emergency, you'll be able to call for help.
- Use a rolling kitchen cart to move heavy or hot items
- Select a chair that you will use when you come home. The best chair for those recovering from hip replacement surgery will be firm, allow you to sit at least 18 inches above the floor and have arms. It should be short enough so that your feet sit flat on the floor, and should place your knees lower than your hips.
- Install nightlights in each room. Try to buy the type with sensors that automatically turn the lights on at sundown.

# Caring for Yourself—Pre-surgery Preparations

## If You Live Alone

Those living alone will face special challenges after hip replacement surgery. To make your homecoming as easy as possible, you may want to complete the following tasks before checking into the hospital:

- Find someone to do your yard work
- Arrange to have your paper and mail delivered to your door rather than to your curb
- Arrange for transportation to the grocery store, community events, your place of worship, family get-togethers, and to appointments with your physician and therapist
- Find someone to help care for your pet
- Prepare and freeze a few meals before your surgery

# Caring for Yourself—Pre-surgery Preparations

## What to Pack

Bringing a few items from home can make your stay in the hospital or rehabilitation center more comfortable. We suggest you:

### Bring to the Hospital

- Nonskid closed-heel-to-toe slippers, sneakers or walking shoes
- Loose-fitting shorts and shirts for three days
- A toothbrush, toothpaste, mouthwash or denture supplies
- A comb or hairbrush
- Shaving supplies and cosmetics
- A container of antibacterial wipes for the skin

Please bring no more than \$5 cash to the hospital with you. Please leave your jewelry and other valuables at home. Also, we prefer that you wear a hospital gown rather than your own nightgown or pajamas. After surgery, you may wish to wear shorts and shirts during your recovery. This helps you feel like you are returning to your normal life more quickly.

### Bring to the Rehabilitation Center

- Loose-fitting slacks, sweatpants, shorts or house dresses
- Comfortable shirts or blouses
- Pajamas or nightgowns
- Socks
- Underwear
- A light jacket or sweater
- A container of antibacterial wipes
- A favorite snack (you can place them in Ziploc® bags)
- Pictures of your loved ones
- A headset and tapes of your favorite music
- Books and magazines



# Caring for Yourself—Pre-surgery Preparations

## The Day Before Your Surgery

- Do not eat solid foods after 9pm the night before your surgery. Do not drink anything, not even water, after midnight. Please know that your surgery can be delayed if you don't follow these instructions.
- Report any changes in your physical condition to your physicians. A number of problems may require the postponement of your surgery. These include a sore throat, a cold, a fever, dental problems, difficulty urinating and skin conditions such as rashes or abrasions.

If you have any questions about whether you are healthy enough to undergo surgery, please ask a member of your health care team.

## The Morning of Your Surgery

- If you have been instructed to take medications in the morning, swallow them with only a small sip of water. Do not drink or eat anything else unless instructed by your doctor.
- Bathe or shower with an antibacterial agent (given at pre-op appointment or day of total joint replacement class).
- Leave yourself plenty of time to arrive at the hospital as directed.

# Surgery and Recovery

**At the Hospital**

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# Surgery and Recovery

## At the Hospital

Being in the hospital is probably an unusual experience for you. Read this short list of procedures to help acquaint yourself with the hospital routine.

When you first arrive at the hospital, you will meet with a nurse. He or she will help review what you can expect before and after surgery. From there:

- You will receive a hospital gown to wear
- You will be admitted to the pre-surgery area. (Friends and family members may wait with you there, if you choose.)
- You will be wheeled via stretcher to the preoperative area where you will be introduced to your surgical team. You will then be taken into surgery. Any family or friends visiting you will be directed to the surgery waiting room.
- You will undergo surgery. This process can take from two to three hours.
- After the procedure, you will be placed on your orthopedic bed and taken to the Post-anesthesia Care Unit until you wake up. The waking-up process usually takes from one to two hours. During this time, your surgeon will talk with waiting family and friends.
- The anesthesiologist and recovery room nurse will care for you as you awaken. Depending on the anesthesia used, you may wake up wearing an oxygen mask. You may also experience temporary blurred vision, dry mouth, chills or pain. Your nurse will monitor your vital signs and help make you as comfortable as possible.
- When you are fully awake and medically stable, you will be transferred to the Orthopedic floor.

## Keeping You Safe

- Keeping you safe is our top priority. We will regularly ask you to identify yourself by stating your name and birth date and comparing it to your identification armband. This ensures we provide the right treatment, tests and medications during your stay with us.
- One of our goals is to prevent the spread of infection to our patients. Your health care team will wash their hands with soap and water or use alcohol gel before and after each patient encounter. If you have concerns that your health care provider has not washed his or her hands, please speak up and ask them. Your physician will also order I.V. antibiotics before surgery and possibly following your surgery to help prevent surgical site infections.
- We want to perform the right procedure, on the right patient, at the right site everytime. We will ask you to be involved in the process by identifying your surgical site and confirming the site that your surgeon marks.

# Surgery and Recovery

## About Anesthesia

Anesthesia is a type of medication that causes you to lose sensation, therefore, you feel no pain after anesthesia is administered. This loss of sensation may or may not be accompanied by the loss of consciousness.

At the hospital, an anesthesiologist or certified registered nurse anesthetist takes responsibility for giving you anesthesia. The doctor or nurse will evaluate your medical status and talk with you to decide which type of anesthesia is best suited for your surgery.

The type of anesthesia used will depend on your medical and surgical condition, and on your overall health. “General” and “regional” are the types of anesthesia most often used for hip replacement surgery.

Type	Definition	Advantages	Side Effects
<b>General Anesthesia</b>	General anesthesia acts primarily on the brain and nervous system. It not only eliminates sensations of pain during surgery, it also allows you to sleep during the procedure. General anesthesia is administered by injection or by inhaling it into your respiratory system.	Allows patients to sleep through extensive surgical procedure.	Side effects include a sore throat, headache, hoarseness and nausea.
<b>Regional Anesthesia (includes spinal/epidural anesthesia)</b>	Regional anesthesia involves the loss of sensation to a defined area of the body. Spinal/epidural anesthesia is a type of regional anesthesia. This type is given by injecting a local anesthetic into the lower part of your back, between your vertebrae. Other medicines, delivered through an I.V., usually leave you with little or no memory of the surgery.	Regional anesthesia is less intrusive to the body than general anesthesia. It tends to be easier on your heart and lungs than general anesthesia.	Side effects include minor headaches lasting for a few days after surgery. You may also have some problems urinating. Rarely, patients will experience a headache that emerges when they stand up, and vanishes when they lie down. If this should happen to you, lie flat and call your doctor immediately.

# Surgery and Recovery

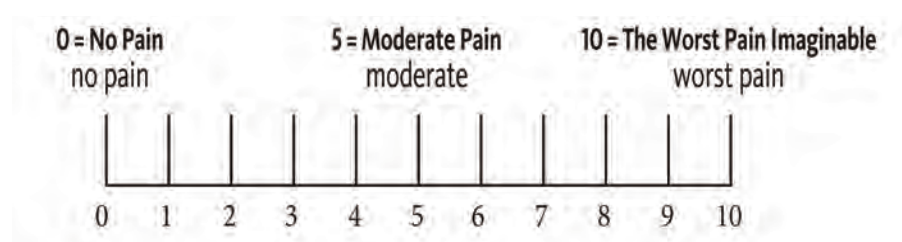
## Managing Your Pain

All patients have the right to pain management. Treating pain is an important part of your care and recovery.

Only you can describe the type, and degree, of pain you experience after surgery. The pain caused by surgery may be severe at first, but it will ease as your body heals. Be sure to report any pain to your doctor or nurse.

## Measuring Your Pain

To help us measure your pain, we will ask you to rate it before and after a dose of pain medication. Rate your pain on the 0-10 point scale drawn below.



## Easing Your Pain

We want to work with you to lessen or relieve any pain you feel after your hip replacement surgery. Keeping pain under control will help you heal faster.

### The keys to optimal pain control are:

- Taking pain medication as soon as the pain starts
- Taking pain medication **before** physical therapy
- Taking pain medication before you start doing anything that will cause pain. These activities include walking, dressing or sitting.

# Surgery and Recovery

## Managing Your Pain (continued)

### Pain Relief from Medication

Your doctor will choose a pain control to best suit your needs. Some patients will be given pain medication — pills, shots, I.V.s — on demand. Doctors will specify that other patients be given pain medication at certain times during the day. Still others will be asked to use a Patient Controlled Analgesia Pump (also called a PCA Pump). This pump allows you to control your own pain management. When you begin to hurt, you simply press a button to inject pain medication into your system. If your doctor orders this type of pain management, your nurse will teach you how to use the pump.

### Holistic Pain Relief

The following techniques can help ease mild to moderate pain. They also make pain medicine work better.

- Apply cold packs to the affected area if ordered by your doctor.
- Practice slow, rhythmic breathing. Imagine that you are in a calm, relaxing place.
- The bedside TV offers relaxation channels. You may bring your headset.

### At-home Pain Control

Know your pain control plan.

- Before leaving the hospital, you will be given a prescription for pain medication. Have it filled. (If you are given a prescription by your doctor before surgery, have it filled before you come to the hospital.) Take as ordered.
- Follow directions carefully. Some pain medications cause nausea if not taken with food. If you suffer from nausea even when taking the medication as directed, call your doctor.
- If your pain doesn't go away after taking your medicine, or if it gets worse, call your doctor.
- When your pain lessens, you may switch to over-the-counter pain medication.
- Many prescription pain medications cause constipation. Increase your intake of water, fruits and vegetables to avoid this. (See Chapter 6 for more information on postsurgical nutrition.)

# Surgery and Recovery

## Medication Side Effects

This chart contains information about the most common side effects of the medications that you may take during your hospital stay. If you have questions or concerns, please ask your nurse.

Reason for Medication	Medication Names - Generic (Brand)	Most Common Side Effects
Pain relief	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Fentanyl</li> <li>▪ Hydrocodone/Acetaminophen (Vicodin®, Lortab®)</li> <li>▪ Hydromorphone (Dilaudid®)</li> <li>▪ Morphine</li> <li>▪ Norco</li> <li>▪ Oxycodone</li> <li>▪ Oxycodone/Acetaminophen (Percocet®)</li> <li>▪ Oxycontin</li> <li>▪ Tramadol (Ultram®)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Dizziness/drowsiness</li> <li>▪ Constipation</li> <li>▪ Queasiness/vomiting</li> <li>▪ Rash</li> <li>▪ Confusion</li> </ul>
Queasiness or vomiting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Compazine</li> <li>▪ Ondansetrom (Zofran®)</li> <li>▪ Promethazine (Phenergan®)</li> <li>▪ Reglan</li> <li>▪ Scopolamine patch</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Headache</li> <li>▪ Constipation</li> <li>▪ Tiredness/drowsiness</li> </ul>
Heartburn or reflux	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Esomeprazole (Nexium®)</li> <li>▪ Famotidine (Pepcid®)</li> <li>▪ Lansoprazole (Prevacid®)</li> <li>▪ Omeprazole (Prilosec®)</li> <li>▪ Pantoprazole (Protonix®)</li> <li>▪ Ranitidine (Zantac®)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Headache</li> <li>▪ Diarrhea</li> </ul>
Lowers cholesterol	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Atorvastatin (Lipitor®)</li> <li>▪ Lovastatin (Mevacor®)</li> <li>▪ Pravastatin (Pravachol®)</li> <li>▪ Rosuvastatin (Crestor®)</li> <li>▪ Simvastatin (Zocor®)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Headache</li> <li>▪ Muscle pain</li> <li>▪ Upset stomach</li> </ul>
Blood thinner (to stop or break down blood clots)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Enoxaparin (Lovenox®)</li> <li>▪ Dalteparin (Fragmin®)</li> <li>▪ Heparin</li> <li>▪ Warfarin (Coumadin®)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Risk of bleeding</li> </ul>
Stops blood clots from forming	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Aspirin</li> <li>▪ Clopidogrel (Plavix®)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Upset stomach</li> <li>▪ Risk of bleeding</li> </ul>
Heart rhythm problems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Amiodarone (Pacerone®)</li> <li>▪ Digoxin (Digitek®)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Dizziness</li> <li>▪ Headache</li> </ul>
Lowers blood pressure and heart rate	Calcium channel blockers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Diltiazem (Cardizem (CD)®, Cartia XT®, Tiazac®, Dilacor XT®)</li> </ul> Beta blockers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Atenolol (Tenormin®)</li> <li>▪ Carvedilol (Coreg®)</li> <li>▪ Metoprolol (Lopressor XL®)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Headache</li> <li>▪ Dizziness/drowsiness</li> </ul>

# Surgery and Recovery

## Medication Side Effects (continued)

Lowers blood pressure	<p>ACE inhibitors, angiotensin receptor blockers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Benezepril, Captopril, Enalapril, Lisinopril, Quinapril, Ramipril</li> <li>▪ Irbesartan (Avapro®)</li> <li>▪ Olmesartan (Benicar®)</li> <li>▪ Valsartan (Diovan®)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Dizziness</li> <li>▪ Cough</li> </ul>
Antibiotic for bacterial infections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Amoxicillin/Clavulanate (Augmentin®)</li> <li>▪ Cefazolin (Ceftin®)</li> <li>▪ Cefotetan or Cefoxitin</li> <li>▪ Clindamycin (Cleocin®)</li> <li>▪ Ertapenem (Invanz®)</li> <li>▪ Levofloxacin (Levaquin®)</li> <li>▪ Metronidazole (Flagyl®)</li> <li>▪ Piperacillin/Tazobactam (Zosyn®)</li> <li>▪ Vancomycin (Vancocin®)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Upset stomach</li> <li>▪ Diarrhea</li> <li>▪ Rash/flushing</li> <li>▪ Headache</li> </ul>
Helps with inflammation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Celecoxib (Celebrex®)</li> <li>▪ Dexamethasone (Decadron®)</li> <li>▪ Hydrocortisone (Cortef®)</li> <li>▪ Ibuprofen (Motrin®)</li> <li>▪ Ketorolac (Toradol®)</li> <li>▪ Prednisone</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Upset stomach</li> <li>▪ Sleeplessness</li> </ul>
Calms nerves or makes you sleepy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Diazepam (Valium®)</li> <li>▪ Lorazepam (Ativan®)</li> <li>▪ Midazolam (Versed®)</li> <li>▪ Oxazepam (Serax®)</li> <li>▪ Temazepam (Restoril®)</li> <li>▪ Zolpidem (Ambien®)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Dizziness/drowsiness</li> <li>▪ Headache</li> <li>▪ Confusion</li> </ul>



# Surgery and Recovery

## Preventing Complications

After surgery, your body is in a weakened state, and at a greater risk for infection and other health problems. You and your caregiver can do much to reduce the chance of postsurgical complications.

- Nurses will measure your blood pressure, temperature and pulse.
- Health care workers will regularly check your involved leg for movement, feeling and proper circulation.
- To improve circulation and strength, exercise.
- Wear white elastic socks (called TED stockings) to support your muscles, promote circulation and prevent blood clots.
- You will receive medication to prevent the development of blood clots.
- Use an incentive spirometer to help your respiratory system. Also perform deep breathing and coughing exercises.
- Your dressing and incision will be checked regularly. The dressing will be changed one to two days after surgery. Sutures or staples are usually removed 10 to 14 days after surgery.
- You may have a small tube inserted in your hip. It will draw out excess blood and fluid from the area around your incision. This small tube will be removed one to two days after surgery.
- You will have an I.V. for one or two days. It is important to drink six to eight glasses of water after your surgery and after your I.V. is removed. If you feel too nauseous to drink, talk to your nurse.
- Your nurse will order a regular diet when you have bowel sounds and can pass gas.
- Your inactivity, combined with your pain medication, can cause constipation. To help avoid this state, drink plenty of fluids, include fiber in your diet and increase your activity as you can. (For more information, see Chapter 6.)

If you have questions about any of these activities, please talk to your doctor or nurse.

# Surgery and Recovery

## A Word About Visitors

The first few days after your surgery, you'll spend much time learning how to use your new hip. Your health care team will balance this activity with your need for rest. The hospital is often the best place to get the rest you need to regain your strength. For this reason, we ask that you please verify the visiting hours on the orthopedic unit, and ask that your visitors respect them.

## Postsurgical Care Equipment

After surgery, you may need to use some special equipment to help speed your recovery.

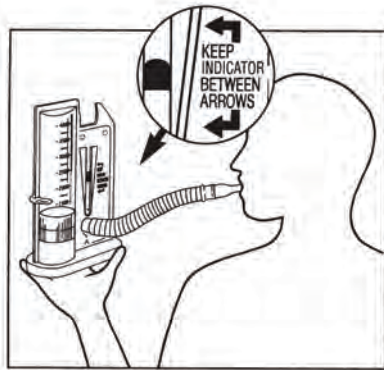
### Your surgeon may order the following:

- **Abductor Pillow:** This triangular pillow is strapped in place between your legs to help prevent hip dislocation
- **Cold Therapy Equipment:** This helps minimize swelling and reduce pain at your surgical site. This equipment can include an ice bag or a machine that circulates cold water.
- **Incentive Spirometer:** This is a breathing device that helps maintain healthy lungs after surgery
- **Patient Controlled Analgesia Machine:** This allows you to administer your own pain medication, and is generally used for one or two days after surgery
- **Sequential Compression Device/PlexiPulse Machine:** Either one of these machines may be used to increase circulation and help prevent blood clots
- **TED Stockings:** These white, elastic socks reduce the chance of blood clots forming in your legs after surgery. At first, you will wear these knee-or thigh-high stockings almost 24 hours a day.

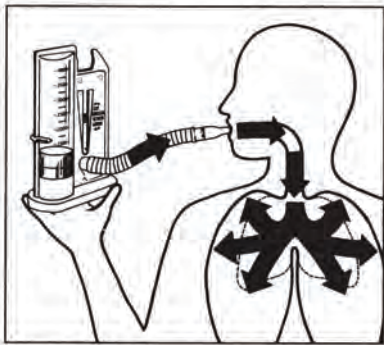
# Surgery and Recovery

## Postoperative Respiratory Exercises

An Incentive Spirometer is a device that assists in lung expansion. (Expanded lungs are healthier lungs.) You'll also find that taking slow, deep breaths and coughing periodically will help keep your lungs clear. Use the Incentive Spirometer several times a day, preferably every hour while awake. If you feel lightheaded or dizzy, you may be overdoing it. Stop and rest. Resume deep breathing when you feel better.



Exhale completely, then close your lips tightly around the mouthpiece. Inhale slowly and deeply, keeping the small, blue ball between the two arrows.



When you can't inhale anymore, hold your breath for six seconds. Then exhale slowly. Repeat as often as prescribed by your physician.

# Surgery and Recovery

## Patient Care Plan

The chart below lists some of the activities you should perform for optimal health and pain management in the days following your surgery. Please note that your individual care plan may vary from what is listed here.

Day of Surgery	First Day After Surgery
<p>Use abduction pillow/regular pillow as ordered to keep your legs apart to prevent hip dislocation.</p> <p><b>Activity Plan</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Turn to your side in bed with help</li> <li>• Do ankle pumps and quadricep exercises 10 times each hour while awake. (See Chapter 4)</li> </ul> <p><b>Pain Control</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use the pain scale</li> <li>• Use pain medication as needed</li> <li>• Tell your nurse of any effects of pain medication</li> <li>• Use cold therapy</li> </ul> <p><b>Breathing Exercises</b> (Do 10 times each hour while awake.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cough</li> <li>• Deep breathe</li> <li>• Use incentive spirometer</li> <li>• Use oxygen if ordered</li> </ul> <p><b>As Ordered by the Doctor</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• White elastic socks—TED stockings</li> <li>• Sequential Compression Device</li> </ul>	<p>Use a pillow under the calf only to keep your heel off the bed.</p> <p><b>Activity Plan</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A physical therapist will assist you out of bed and into a chair.</li> <li>• Move to the bedside commode with help during physical therapy</li> <li>• Turn to your side in bed with help</li> <li>• Participate in physical therapy twice daily (Take pain medication before therapy)</li> <li>• Do ankle pumps and quadricep exercises 10 times each hour while awake. (See Chapter 4)</li> <li>• Attend to personal hygiene</li> </ul> <p><b>Pain Control</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use the pain scale</li> <li>• Use pain medication as needed</li> <li>• Tell your nurse of any effects of pain medication</li> <li>• Use cold therapy</li> </ul> <p><b>Breathing Exercises</b> (Do 10 times each hour while awake.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cough</li> <li>• Deep breathe</li> <li>• Use incentive spirometer</li> <li>• Use oxygen if ordered</li> </ul> <p><b>As Ordered by the Doctor</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• White elastic socks—TED stockings</li> <li>• Sequential Compression Device</li> <li>• A social worker will evaluate your insurance for discharge planning</li> <li>• Home health care coordinator will set up your home health care equipment (walker/crutches/commode) as well as your home health care nurses and physical therapy</li> </ul>

# Surgery and Recovery

## Patient Care Plan (continued)

Second Day of Surgery	Reminder of Stay
<p>Use a pillow under calf only to keep heel off of bed.</p> <p><b>Activity Plan</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A physical therapist will assist you out of bed and into a chair.</li> <li>• Walk to the bathroom and in the halls with the help of a physical therapist and a walker.</li> <li>• Achieve bed mobility with minimal help.</li> <li>• Continue independent practice of hip exercise program.</li> <li>• Attend to personal hygiene.</li> </ul> <p><b>Pain Control</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use the pain scale.</li> <li>• Use pain medications as needed.</li> <li>• Tell your nurse of any effects of pain medication.</li> <li>• Use cold therapy.</li> </ul> <p><b>Breathing Exercises</b> (Do 10 times each hour while awake.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cough.</li> <li>• Deep breathe.</li> <li>• Use incentive spirometer.</li> <li>• Use oxygen if ordered.</li> </ul> <p><b>As Ordered by the Doctor</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Abduction pillow/regular pillow</li> <li>• White elastic socks—TED stockings</li> <li>• Knee Immobilizer</li> <li>• Sequential Compression Device</li> </ul> <p><b>Review Discharge Plan</b> Discuss with your health care team and your family your:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discharge destination</li> <li>• Equipment needed at home</li> <li>• Home help available</li> <li>• Transportation</li> <li>• Discharge date</li> <li>• Any discharge education needed</li> </ul>	<p><b>Activity Plan</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Walk to the bathroom and in the halls three or four times each day using a walker and with help from assistants.</li> <li>• Get in and out of your bed and chair.</li> <li>• Attend therapy sessions.</li> <li>• Continue hip exercises.</li> <li>• Attend to personal hygiene.</li> <li>• Wear white elastic socks—TED stockings.</li> </ul> <p><b>Pain Control</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use the pain scale.</li> <li>• Use pain medication as needed.</li> <li>• Use cold therapy.</li> </ul> <p><b>Breathing Exercises</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cough.</li> <li>• Deep breathe.</li> <li>• Use incentive spirometer.</li> </ul> <p><b>As Ordered by the Doctor</b> Plans you need to finalize include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Your discharge date and destination</li> <li>• Transportation</li> <li>• Home health care equipment</li> <li>• Support network of family and friends</li> <li>• Prescriptions received and filled</li> <li>• All of your questions answered</li> <li>• A social worker will organize your discharge planning.</li> <li>• A home health care coordinator will organize your discharge to your home.</li> </ul>

# Surgery and Recovery

## When Can I Go Home?

A smooth and speedy recovery depends on your following the activities laid out by health care professionals in your patient care plan. By strictly following this plan, you'll have a better chance of leaving the hospital sooner for home, or if needed, a rehabilitation center. Many patients can expect to leave the hospital in three to five days. These are patients who:

- Will be able to return to their own homes, or to family members' homes, after surgery
- Will be discharged to a prearranged skilled nursing facility or a rehabilitation center. (While length of stay in these facilities varies, most patients can expect to stay anywhere from three to seven days.)

# Surgery and Recovery

## Restrictions After Your Surgery

Your hip replacement should decrease pain, and help you return to a more active life. However, you must follow certain restrictions in movement as you heal from surgery.

- Do not cross your legs.
- Do not sit in a low, soft chair or sofa, or on a stool.
- Do not bend past 90 degrees at the hip.

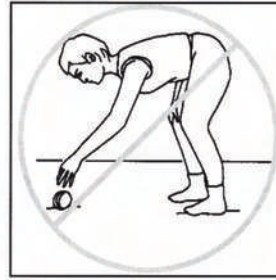
Following these restrictions will help you heal faster, and reduce the risk of your dislocating your new hip during recovery.



Do not cross your legs.



Do not sit in a low, soft chair or sofa, or on a stool.



Do not bend past 90 degrees at the hip.

## Lifting, Bending and Carrying

For a time after your surgery, you will have to treat your body very gently. Consider the following when reaching for or carrying items, and when bending:

- Avoid bending down to reach low cupboards. Use an assisting device such as a reacher whenever possible. (See Chapter 7 for a description of a reacher.)
- Avoid carrying anything in your hands while using a walker or crutches. Use a walker bag, clothing pockets, a fanny pack or backpack to store personal items.
- Avoid far reaches
- Try using a rolling kitchen cart to carry heavy or hot items

# Caring for Yourself After Surgery

**Common Questions at Discharge**

**Questions for Your Follow-up Appointment**

**Your Home Exercise Program**

**What You Need to Know About Nutrition**

Chapter Six: Caring for Yourself After Surgery



# Caring for Yourself After Surgery

## Common Questions at Discharge

Before you go home, you will get specific instructions on your diet, medicines, exercise program, activity level, discharge equipment, follow-up appointment, and signs and symptoms to watch for. If you have any questions, ask your doctor or nurse. They want your recovery to be as smooth, and as speedy, as possible. The following are answers to some of the most common questions patients ask.

### What are my activity restrictions and how do I follow them?

Regular exercise makes you feel better about yourself, helps you manage your weight, improves muscle tone and keeps your joints flexible. But you need to balance exercise with rest. Plan on resting at least once or twice each day. Your home exercise program — developed by your health care team — will tell you what exercises to undertake, the proper technique for performing each and the number of repetitions you should complete. Please follow this program to the best of your ability. Doing so will help your body improve its strength and flexibility. If you choose not to perform these exercises, chances are you will feel weak and your joints will stiffen.

Follow these guidelines to prevent complications during the months following your hip replacement surgery.

- Place a regular pillow between your legs when lying on your side. The pillow will hold your legs in proper alignment.
- Avoid sudden movements.
- Do not twist your involved leg; take small steps when turning.
- When walking, point your big toe forward; don't turn your toe inward.
- When lying on your back, keep your toes pointed toward the ceiling.
- Do not stoop, kneel or use low furniture or toilets. As a rule, chairs, beds and toilets should stand at least 18 inches off the floor.
- Avoid sitting for more than an hour at a time—even if you're taking a long car ride. Instead, stop at least once every hour to stand, stretch or take a few steps.
- Don't cross your legs, at either the hip or ankle.
- Do not sit in a low, soft chair, sofa or stool. Do not sit in a rocking chair or recliner.
- Do not bend your hip more than 90 degrees.

# Caring for Yourself After Surgery

## Common Questions at Discharge (continued)

### How soon can I take a bath or shower?

- You can shower after your sutures or staples are removed, usually 10 to 14 days after surgery. Alternately, you may shower when your incision has grown dry and clean, and when your physician says it's okay.
- Use a tub bench. This offers you extra support and comfort until you become more mobile.
- Do not sit in the bathtub.

### How do I care for my incision?

Your surgeon will arrange for a home health nurse to change your dressing, if needed.

### When can I return to my regular eating habits?

Proper nutrition will help you recover quickly and feel your best. What you eat after your surgery will greatly affect your well-being. You need to eat well-balanced meals and drink lots of fluids.

- Resume a healthy diet as soon as you can.
- Do not skip meals. Eating three balanced meals each day is essential to maintaining your health.
- Eat a balanced diet, including offerings from all the basic food groups: dairy, meat, fruits, vegetables and grains.

More information on nutrition appears later in this chapter.

### I'm feeling constipated. Why?

Constipation can be caused by pain medicine, iron tablets, improper diet, decreased activity and any combination of these. You can relieve constipation by:

- Drinking six to eight glasses of water each day.
- Keeping active.
- Increasing the fiber in your diet. Eat whole grain breads, bran cereals, fresh fruits and vegetables.
- Decreasing the use of your pain medicine, when appropriate.

Talk to your doctor if your constipation persists. He or she may prescribe medication to relieve the problem.

# Caring for Yourself After Surgery

## Common Questions at Discharge (continued)

### When can I drive?

Ask your surgeon when you can drive. Once you receive his or her go-ahead, remember not to drive while taking pain medication. These medications can impair your judgment and limit your ability to drive safely.

### When can I go back to work?

You need to talk to your doctor about the appropriate time for you to return to your work and hobbies.

### What medical precautions should I keep in mind?

Inform your doctors and dentists of your hip replacement before undergoing any surgery, podiatric procedure or dental work. You may need to take antibiotics before these appointments/procedures.

### Why am I setting off metal detectors at airports?

Part of your new prosthesis is made of metal. Ask your surgeon for an implant identification card. Keep it with you at all times, especially when you have to pass through metal detectors. You should allow additional time to pass through airport security stations.

### How long do I need to wear white elastic socks?

Wear them constantly until your first doctor visit after surgery. You may only take them off twice a day, for 15 minutes each time. You may also wash and dry them, but put them back on immediately.

### When can I start having sex again?

Talk with your doctor about when it is safe for you to have sex again. When you do decide to become intimate, use a firm mattress. Remain the passive partner for the first six weeks after surgery. (For example, the bottom partner in the missionary position.) Keep your involved leg straight and toes pointed toward the ceiling during intercourse.

### When do I need to see my doctor for follow-up?

Call your doctor's office to schedule a follow-up appointment. See the following page for a list of questions to ask during this visit.

# Caring for Yourself After Surgery

## Common Questions at Discharge (continued)

### Are there certain postsurgical symptoms that I should call my doctor about?

Yes. In general, you want to call your doctor if:

- Your involved leg is cool to the touch, a dusky color, grows numb or tingles
- You develop a temperature of 101 degrees or higher, and start experiencing chills
- Your incision starts draining or grows swollen, warm, red and painful
- Your incision bleeds a bright red
- You have discomfort that is not relieved by prescribed medicine, rest or cold therapy
- You develop burning or urgency when urinating, or if your urine has a foul odor

**If you develop pain in your chest, call 911. This is a medical emergency.**

## Questions for Your Follow-up Appointment

Use this checklist to keep track of the questions you may want to ask your doctor during your follow-up appointment.

### Can I:

- Lie in bed on either side? On my involved hip?
- Lie in bed without using a pillow between my legs? If not, how long do I need to keep using the pillow?
- Stop wearing TED socks? If not, how long do I need to keep wearing them?
- Take a bath?
- Start walking with a cane? If not, when do you think I can start walking with a cane?
- Drive a car? If not, when will I be able to drive?
- Increase my leisure activities? (Traveling, golfing, dancing?)
- Other questions. (Use space below to list any additional questions you may have.)

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# Caring for Yourself After Surgery

## Your Home Exercise Program

Once you return home, continue your exercises to prevent complications and to build strength as you increase activity.

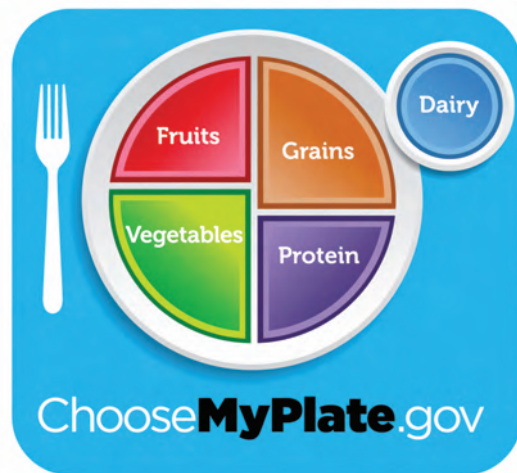
Your leg muscles probably feel weak. Surgery corrected your hip problem, and a program of regular exercise will strengthen your weakened muscles. Your success with rehabilitation now largely depends on your commitment to following the exercise program.

Your exercise program will be individually tailored by a home health physical therapist, or by your doctor.

# Caring for Yourself After Surgery

## What You Need to Know About Nutrition

“MyPlate” is based on the 2010 Dietary Guidelines for Americans to help consumers make better food choices.



“MyPlate” illustrates the five food groups that are the building blocks for a healthy diet, using a familiar image – a place setting for a meal. Before you eat, think about what goes on your plate or in your cup or bowl. Here is just a snapshot of how you can eat healthy.

- Make half your plate fruits and vegetables.
- Fruits: Any fruit (fresh, canned, frozen or dried) or 100 percent fruit juice counts.
- Vegetables: Vary your veggies.
- Grains: Make at least half your grains whole grains.
- Protein: Choose lean protein and keep it lean as you prepare it.
- Dairy: Get your calcium-rich foods.

## Nutrients to Help You Heal

Nutrients can be found in many sources and can contribute to speeding your recovery, including:

### Protein

Meat, poultry, seafood, eggs, dairy products and peanut butter

### Zinc

Seafood, meat and poultry (best source), whole-grain cereals and breads, dairy products

### Fluids

Water, juice and gelatin

# Caring for Yourself After Surgery

## What You Need to Know About Nutrition (continued)

### Calcium

For your bone health and general well-being, plan on getting a minimum of 1,200 to 1,500mg of calcium every day. The best food sources include:

- Milk—whole, reduced-fat or nonfat
- Yogurt
- Hard cheese or cottage cheese
- Salmon, mackerel or sardines (canned with bones)
- Broccoli
- Greens—collard, turnip, mustard, spinach and kale
- Calcium-fortified foods—read the labels

#### Tips:

- Drinking too many soft drinks may keep your body from using the calcium found in foods.
- You can meet your day's requirement for calcium by consuming three 8-ounce glasses of milk, 1 ounce of reduced-fat cheese and one serving of leafy green vegetables.

### Iron

Red meats, egg yolk, chicken, turkey

### Vitamin A

Dark green leafy vegetables, deep orange and yellow vegetables and fruits (such as spinach, winter squash, carrots, sweet potatoes, melons, peaches, pumpkins and apricots), milk and dairy products, liver, egg yolk

### Vitamin C

Citrus fruits and juices, broccoli, green pepper, spinach, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, strawberries, tomatoes, potatoes, cantaloupe

# Back at Home

## Discharge Equipment

To ensure a safe recovery, you will need to use some special equipment. This chapter describes the items you may need.

At the very least, following your hip surgery you must have:

- A Walking Aid: This can be a walker, a set of crutches or a cane
- A 3-In-1 Commode: This is a raised toilet seat set in an enclosed aluminum stand. It can be used in any room, or placed over your bathroom toilet. It gives you the extra lift hip patients need after surgery. Remember, you don't want to sit on anything low — be it a sofa or a toilet.

Insurance will cover the purchase of a walking aid and commode. You will probably have to pay for other items out of pocket. Read “Where to Find Equipment” for ideas on where these items can be purchased or rented.





# Back at Home

## Discharge Equipment (continued)



A hand-held shower head lets you control the spray of water. Use it while sitting on your tub bench.



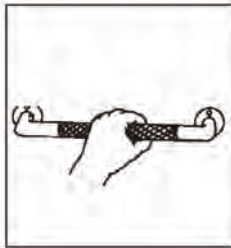
Elastic laces let you slip in and out of your shoes easily while keeping them tied. A long-handled shoe horn helps you guide your foot into the shoe.



A sock aid will help you put on socks without bending.



A long-handled sponge can be used to wash your feet, eliminating your need to bend.



Grab bars installed in the bathtub and shower will help you stay safe while climbing in and out.



A reacher will enable you to access items stored above or below waist level.

# Back at Home

## Where to Find Equipment

The following is a list of places where you can purchase or lease the equipment you will need after surgery. If you are able to obtain these items before surgery, your discharge will go more smoothly.

- Call local drugstores to see what selections of health equipment they carry.
- Obtain a department store health care catalog. It will detail a variety of equipment you can buy.
- Look in the Yellow Pages' "handicapped services equipment" or "home care services" sections to find retailers specializing in this equipment.
- BayCare HomeCare is a regional corporation selling health care items. They will deliver these goods to your home. Call (800) 940-5151.

# Back at Home

## My Medical Questions

Use this page to jot down questions to ask your doctor, nurse, physical therapist or any member of your medical team.

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## Notes

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## A Final Note

The total hip replacement program at St. Anthony’s Hospital, wants to ease your pain, and to help you regain your independence. Following the instructions in this manual will help ensure that you heal as completely and as quickly as possible. If you have any questions about the material appearing here, please make sure to consult a member of your team from St. Anthony’s Hospital. He or she will be happy to talk with you.