

## **Post-Operative Instructions: Total Hip Arthroplasty**

### **Coming Home**

- It is normal to feel like your hip and leg are stiff and swollen. This will improve over time.
- You can put full weight on your leg as tolerated. Use your walker/cane to support you with ambulation as needed.
- Ensure that you continue to follow your hip precautions as instructed by your physical therapist.
- Ice your hip in 30-minute intervals to assist with pain and swelling.
- When at rest, keep your knee and leg elevated for 72 hours after surgery to help diminish swelling.
- Your Home Health team will be visiting with you within 1-2 days after hospital discharge.

### **Dressings/Hygiene**

- Keep your dressings dry and intact until 3 days after surgery, at which point they can be removed.
- At this point, most incisions will typically be dry and further dressings will not be required.
- You may shower once the initial dressings are removed. Until then, please perform sponge baths in order to avoid getting the dressings wet. Do not scrub the skin glue off the incision.
- If there is some drainage from the surgical wound, apply some sterile gauze squares and bandage tape. Change daily until the wound is dry.
- Once the dressings have been removed and the wound is dry, it is safe to leave the wounds open to air. You may apply a light dressing over the wound for additional protection if you prefer.

### **Medications**

- **Aspirin / Enoxaparin (Lovenox) / Rivaroxaban (Xarelto) / Apixaban (Eliquis):** You have been prescribed one of these medications to lower the risk of blood clots. It is important to take the full amount of medication as prescribed. The over-the-counter aspirin dose is 325 mg daily for 30 days.
- **Acetaminophen (Tylenol):** This medication helps with pain. It should be taken on a scheduled basis (1000 mg every 8 hours) for as long as needed.
- **Oxycodone / Tramadol / Hydrocodone:** These are narcotic medications that can be taken as needed for pain control. You should taper off and discontinue these medications as soon as you feel you no longer need them.
- **Meloxicam / Ibuprofen:** These are anti-inflammatory medications that help with pain and swelling. You should take the medication as prescribed on a scheduled basis at least until you are off narcotic pain medication. You may keep taking it for as long as it is beneficial.
- **Gabapentin:** This medication helps diminish pain signals along the sensory nerves. If prescribed, it should be taken as prescribed on a scheduled basis at least until you are off narcotic pain medication. You may keep taking the gabapentin for as long as it is beneficial.

### **Follow-up and Contacts**

- In most cases, your first post-operative visit has already been scheduled, typically in about 2 weeks.
- Call the office if you need to schedule your post-operative appointment.
- If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to call:

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