

# JOINT REPLACEMENT CLASS

## KNEE SURGERY



*4620 East Baseline Road, Mesa 85206*

Call (480) 824-1229 or (480) 824-1306 to register

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## **Introduction**

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The staff of Arizona Spine and Joint Hospital (ASJH) would like to take this opportunity to thank you for selecting us to perform your joint replacement. We realize there are many factors that enter into your decision and appreciate your confidence in our staff.

The dedicated staff of ASJH will ensure you are comfortable and knowledgeable about every aspect of your surgery and recovery. Our ultimate goal is to help you learn to care for yourself after discharge so you may regain maximum independence.

The staff of ASJH have found that patients who actively participate in their care and rehabilitation have the best long-term outcomes after surgery. To this end, we believe that teamwork is the key to success with joint replacement surgery. Your team includes the following members:

1. You
2. Your family
3. Your surgeon
4. Your doctor
5. Your nurses
6. Your physical therapist
7. Your case manager

Please take some time to carefully review the contents of this booklet. Should you have any further questions or concerns after reviewing the material please don't hesitate to call any of the numbers listed on Appendix I.

***Remember – Arizona Spine and Joint Hospital is a non-smoking campus. This includes electronic cigarettes. If you smoke, try to stop. If you cannot stop, cut down. This will help with the healing process and speed your recovery. If you would like smoking cessation assistance or information, please ask your nurse or case manager.***



## **Preparing For Your Surgery**

The following information is provided to assist you in preparing for surgery. Please review the information very carefully. Address any of the issues or complete any of the tasks that are pertinent to you within the specific time period listed. Doing so will make you knowledgeable about the many aspects of your surgery and recovery, thus ensuring a very relaxed process.

### **One Month Prior To Your Surgery**

1. Some patients may require a blood transfusion after surgery. If you have any religious or personal issues concerning a transfusion, please speak with your orthopedic surgeon.
2. Your orthopedic surgeon may recommend you see your primary care physician (PCP) or other specialist for medical clearance for surgery. Please discuss this with your orthopedic surgeon.

### **Two Weeks Prior To Your Surgery**

1. Visit <https://www.azspineandjoint.com/education/> to register for the joint replacement class from Arizona Spine and Joint Hospital. Or register by calling (480) 824-1306 or (480) 824-1229.
2. Begin eating a well-balanced diet that includes breads, cereals, vegetables, fruits, meat, dairy products, and plenty of fluids. This is not the time to go on a “diet.”
3. Prepare meals for yourself ahead of time and freeze them.
4. Your surgeon will instruct you on which medication to stop taking prior to surgery. Some examples include aspirin, ibuprofen/Motrin, Advil, naproxen/Aleve, blood thinners, herbal supplements, and Vitamin E. Your surgeon may also prescribe multivitamins, Vitamin C, and/or iron pills to start taking prior to surgery.
5. Compile a complete listing of all of the medications you take. This includes prescription medication, over-the-counter medication, supplements, herbs, vitamins, and home remedies. Be sure to include:
  - a. Name of medication
  - b. Amount of the tablet/medication (e.g. 20 mg, etc.)
  - c. Exactly how you take the medication (e.g. whole tablet or half tablet)
  - d. How often you take the medication (e.g. daily, twice a day, weekly, etc.)
  - e. At what time you take the medication (e.g. at 6 a.m., etc.)
6. After surgery, you will need a front-wheeled walker. This item will be billed to your insurance. If you do not have one, the case manager will obtain one for you.

7. If you already have a walker, you may have it brought to the hospital the day after your surgery (so it can be checked for proper sizing and safety). Please wipe down your walker with Clorox wipes if it is brought in.
8. After surgery, you may need additional equipment such as a raised toilet seat or a shower chair/bench. These items are not provided by the hospital. See Appendix A for more information.
9. Please make sure that you have someone who will help you for the first several days after discharge. You should not stand for long periods of time after surgery. Therefore, you will need to plan for meal preparation, housework, and personal care after you return home from the hospital. You will want to enlist the help of family, friends, or private pay assistance once you have determined your needs. (For a list of private resources, please see Appendix B).
10. Most patients are discharged directly home after their hospital stay. A small portion of patients are not due to the need for additional rehabilitation before going home. If this is the case, your surgeon will recommend you go to an extended care facility (ECF). You may want to contact your insurance provider to determine if they cover a short-term stay at an ECF and if there is a specific facility you must use in your area. Additionally, you may wish to visit several ECFs within your area in advance (see Appendix C). If you need to be admitted to an ECF, then this will be ordered by your surgeon and your case manager will arrange this for you.
11. You may not be allowed to drive for approximately 6 weeks or longer after your surgery. You should arrange for transportation from the hospital and for your follow up appointment (which is typically 2 weeks after your surgery). If you do not have a family member or friend to assist you, please see Appendix D (Transportation Resources).
12. Safety while using a walker is very important. Ensure all walkways in your home are free of throw rugs or hazards, such as extension cords, to prevent falls. (See Appendix A for suggestions and information). Make sure pathways are wide enough for your walker to maneuver in (width of the walker being the base plus the size of the wheels).
13. If you have pets, you may need to plan for their care during your hospital stay and possibly during your recovery. Please inform your orthopedic surgeon that you have a pet as this may increase your risk of infection after surgery.
14. We have found that patients with good muscle tone in their surgical leg recover more quickly. You may also want to work on strengthening your arm muscles to help with your ability to use your walker after surgery.

15. You may want to install a moveable showerhead and grab bar/rails in your bathroom before surgery. Please ensure that the grab bars/rails are installed into wall studs, and not simply into the drywall.
16. It would be a good idea to make sure you have a chair to sit in at home that has sturdy armrests. This will make it easier for you to get into and out of the chair after your surgery.
17. Where is the bedroom located that you sleep in? If it is located on the second floor, is it possible that you could stay in a bedroom on the first floor for the first couple of days after you return home?

### **One Week Prior To Your Surgery**

1. Complete all the issues or tasks you have been working on up to this point.
2. Your surgeon's office may require you to have an EKG, chest x-ray, and lab tests performed in preparation for surgery (please contact your surgeon's office with any questions regarding this).
3. Complete the health history form given to you by either the preoperative nurse or your doctor's office.
4. Continue eating a well-balanced diet and keeping your bowels regular.
5. Clean your house, do your laundry, and complete any yard work.
6. Put frequently used items in the kitchen and bathroom at waist height.
7. Compile a complete list of all doctors and specialists you have seen in the last five years. Please include their phone numbers and bring this with you on the morning of surgery.
8. Make a copy of your Living Will/Advanced Directives if you have one, bring this with you on the morning of surgery.
9. Gather your insurance cards, prescription cards, and any medical cards (e.g. pacemaker ID card, COVID vaccination card, etc.) to bring with you.
10. Bring any other forms your physician has given you.
11. Pack a small bag of your personal items and include a set of loose fitted clothing and a good pair of walking shoes for discharge. Do NOT buy new shoes. Make sure the shoe has a rubber sole and there is a back around the shoe that secures your heel in place (i.e. no flip-flops or open backed sandals). Keep in mind that your foot on the surgical leg will experience some swelling, so the shoe must not be tight fitting.

12. If you use urinary incontinence pads, please bring them with you.
13. If you wear hearing aids, please wear them to the hospital and bring an extra set of batteries. Please wear your glasses and/or dentures as well. Bring the containers for all of these labeled with your name (this is important).
14. If you use a CPAP/BiPAP machine for breathing at home, please bring that with you to the hospital. Please wipe machine down with Clorox wipes before bringing in.
15. **DO NOT** bring large amounts of cash, credit cards, or jewelry to the hospital. Arizona Spine and Joint Hospital cannot be responsible for valuables brought to the hospital.
16. **DO NOT bring in any extension cords or personal fans.**

### **The Night before Surgery**

Your surgeon may order Hibiclens, an antiseptic skin cleanser, for you to use prior to surgery. If this cleanser is ordered, you will be instructed by the surgeon's office on where to get it.

Things to know about Hibiclens:

1. If you plan to wash your hair, do so with your regular shampoo. Then rinse hair and body thoroughly to remove any shampoo residue.
2. Wash your face with your regular soap or water only.
3. Thoroughly rinse your body with water from the neck down.
4. Apply Hibiclens, 1/4<sup>th</sup> of the bottle, directly on your skin or on a wet washcloth and wash gently. If showering, move away from the shower stream when applying Hibiclens to avoid rinsing off too soon.
5. Rinse thoroughly with warm water. **DO NOT** use your regular soap after applying and rinsing Hibiclens.
6. Please defer to your surgeon's instruction on how many times and when to use Hibiclens prior to surgery.

**\*Do Not Apply Lotion, Deodorants, or Powders to the Body After Using Hibiclens\***

### **The Morning of Surgery**

1. Starting at midnight before surgery, **DO NOT** eat or drink anything. This includes food, water, gum, candy, alcohol, and tobacco. Only take approved medication with a small sip of water. If your surgeon has not instructed you on what medications to take the night before and morning of surgery, please call the surgeon's office.
2. If you have been instructed to use Hibiclens before surgery, follow the steps above. **DO NOT** use any perfume, powder, facial moisturizers, or lotions after your shower. **DO NOT** shave. **DO NOT** wear make-up, especially eye make-up.
3. You may brush your teeth, but **DO NOT** drink any water.
4. Limit the jewelry that you wear to only what you cannot take off.
5. Hospital check-in does not begin prior to 5am, as 5am is when the lobby opens.
6. Once you are checked in, the staff will escort you to the pre-surgical area where a nurse will prepare you for surgery and you will speak with the anesthesiologist.
7. Notify the surgeon and/or staff if you have any current cuts, illness, vomiting, fever greater than 100 degrees, insect bites, or dental issues.
8. When all preparations for surgery are completed, you will be taken to the operating room.
9. Please contact the hospital to find out our current visitor policy.

### **Post-Op (Immediately After Surgery)**

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1. After surgery, you will spend approximately 1 hour in the recovery room. Since everyone is different, this is just a generalization. The surgeon will contact your Person to Notify at this time.
2. Once your vital signs are stable and you are not having any complications you will be transferred by bed to the inpatient-nursing unit where you will spend the next 1 to 2 days.
3. The nursing staff will monitor your vital signs (temperature, pulse, pain, breathing, and blood pressure) and check your dressing frequently for the first 4 hours that you are on the nursing unit.
4. You will have an IV and receive antibiotics for the first 24 hours to prevent any possible infection.

5. If necessary, your surgeon may insert a very fine drainage tube in the surgical wound for 12 to 24 hours. This tube is attached to a device that collects the drainage.
6. To reduce swelling, lower your risk for a blood clot (DVT), and improve circulation we may place different devices on your legs/feet. These may be ace wraps, support stockings (TEDs), Sequential compression Devices (SCDs), or Plexi Pulses. Each of these items will be removed and reapplied once a day for skin care unless your surgeon orders otherwise.
7. If ordered by your surgeon, ice bags or an ice machine may be placed at surgical site to reduce pain and swelling.
8. You may receive oxygen for the first 12 to 24 hours via a nasal cannula or mask to ensure your lungs are properly oxygenated. A small monitor (pulse oximeter) will be clipped to one of your fingers so the nurse will know your pulse and blood oxygen level at any given minute.
9. Fluid can collect in the lungs after surgery. To help clear your lungs, the nursing staff will teach you deep breathing exercises using an incentive spirometer (IS). These exercises must be done 5 times every hour while awake to prevent respiratory problems, such as pneumonia. To complete the exercises correctly follow the steps below:
  - STEP 1. EXHALE
    - Relax and breathe out, completely emptying lungs.
  - STEP 2. PLACE LIPS AROUND MOUTHPIECE
    - Make sure to hold the device upright and not tilted.
    - Tightly seal lips around mouthpiece
  - STEP 3. INHALE
    - Breathe in slowly and deeply through the mouthpiece
    - Inhale as much air as possible while keeping the indicator hovering between the arrows.
  - STEP 4. REPEAT
    - Repeat breathing exercise 5 times every hour, or as instructed by a member of your healthcare team.
10. It is very common for patients to experience nausea after surgery. To help alleviate this problem the nursing staff will first give you ice chips and clear liquids. Once you can tolerate liquids without nausea, you will be advanced to a regular diet once cleared by your nurse
11. If you experience any pain, nausea, itching, or difficulty sleeping be sure to tell your nurse so they may administer the appropriate medication to resolve the problem. Sleeping medication is not usually administered the night of surgery due to the anesthesia and high doses of pain medication administered.

12. Sometimes after surgery patients are not able to urinate as a side effect of anesthesia. Should this occur, the nurse will place a catheter in your bladder to drain it and then remove it once the bladder is drained. This may be repeated in 4 hours. If still unable to void in another 4 hours, a Foley catheter may be placed then removed the next day.
13. Your surgeon will prescribe any medication you routinely take and medication that is specific to your surgical procedure. Please be aware that some of your medication that you regularly take may not be ordered right away. This is all dependent on your condition and other factors. If you have any questions, please ask the nurse.
14. A “Hospitalist” or an “Internal Medicine” doctor may see you while you are here. They are responsible for any medical care needed that is outside the surgeon’s scope of care.
15. Hand hygiene is one of the most important ways to prevent the spread of infections (flu, surgical site infections, etc.)

**How can hands be cleaned?**

Either by washing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or using alcohol hand gel. Alcohol hand gel is in dispensers located on the walls in patient rooms and in the hallways. No water is required when the alcohol hand gel is used. You will be provided with hand sanitizing gel packets to use while you are here.

**When should caregivers clean their hands?**

Hands should be cleaned before and after any contact with a patient. This means that before and after your caregiver provides care, their hands should be cleaned. A caregiver can be a nurse, doctor, the person drawing your blood, or anyone who helps take care of you. If your caregiver is wearing gloves, their hands should be cleaned before putting the gloves on and after they take them off.

**What should you do if you are unsure your caregiver cleaned their hands?**

It is your right to ask your caregiver if they have cleaned their hands. At Arizona Spine and Joint Hospital, we want you to take an active role in your care. We want you to ask questions and participate as we care for you. Please notice the handwashing reminder sign that are in your room. They are there to remind you to ask if we have cleaned our hands.

**When should you clean your hands?**

Everyone should clean his or her hands often. This means after using the restroom, before eating, after sneezing or coughing, or any time they are dirty. You can use soap and water or alcohol hand rub. Either of these is a good choice to protect your health. Let your visitors, family, friends, and children know when they should wash

their hands too. Family and friends who visit should not touch the surgical wound or dressings.

### **Post-Op Day One (First Day after Surgery)**

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1. Your first day after surgery is called “Post Op Day One.” You will often hear the staff referring to your stay as “Post Op Day One, or Two” while you are here. We number your days in this manner, to track how you are progressing after your surgery. Most total joint replacement patients stay one to two (1-2) nights in the hospital.
2. If you experience any of the following symptoms: pain, nausea, itching, difficulty sleeping, constipation, or have any concerns please notify the nursing staff so the appropriate treatment or actions can be initiated.
3. Your pain medication is changed from IV to oral pills. The object is to maintain a comfort level that will allow you to perform in physical therapy and get proper rest. It is essential that you tell your nurse when you are having pain so your pain is well controlled at all times.
4. Your diet will be advanced from clear liquids to a regular diet if you are not experiencing any nausea or vomiting. You will eat all meals sitting up in a chair.
5. Your IV fluids may be stopped if you are tolerating food and liquids and if you are producing adequate urine.
6. Physical therapy will assist you in performing your strengthening exercises and walking twice a day. After walking, you will be expected to sit in a chair for approximately one (1) hour before you are assisted back to bed. Pain is an unfortunate consequence of increased activity at this stage of your recovery; therefore, we recommend you consider asking for pain medication prior to therapy. Pain medication is normally given every 4-6 hours **upon patient request**.
7. You will be encouraged to attend to your personal hygiene as much as possible. It is considered part of your rehabilitation. You will be given as much assistance as you need with a morning sponge bath. (Some of the surgeons will not allow you to take a shower for 10-14 days after surgery).
8. While you are in bed, the nursing staff will periodically assist you in turning from side to side and repositioning yourself for comfort.
9. Your support stockings (TEDs) will be removed and reapplied once a day.
10. If your surgeon has ordered ice packs or a game ready to your surgical area, they may be applied continuously for 24 to 48 hours.

11. If you have a Foley catheter in your bladder, it will be removed by nursing staff on post-op day one or as ordered by your surgeon. If you have a past history of being unable to urinate after surgery, please inform your surgeon of this.
12. If your blood oxygen level remains above 92%, the nasal cannula and finger monitor will be discontinued.
13. In the early A.M., the lab tech or nurse will draw blood from you so your surgeon and doctor can follow your blood levels.
14. Preventing falls, you must have a staff member with you every time to get out of bed or out of the chair. This includes walking to or from the bathroom. Family, friends, or guests **CAN NOT replace a staff member during ambulation.** Please **CALL** so you will not **FALL**.
15. **Bathroom Safety, You are not allowed to stand up from the toilet or commode without a staff member at your side. This includes wiping yourself and flushing the toilet. Patients can become very weak after sitting on the toilet. Even standing on your own can be difficult without assistance.**



Don't Get Up  
Call  
Don't Fall

### **Post-Op Day Two & Three (Second & Third Day after Surgery)**

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1. With assistance from the nursing staff and physical therapy, you will increase your activity level, walking, and sitting each day.
2. You will eat all of your meals sitting up in a chair.
3. Some patients have difficulty sleeping after surgery because of pain or the change in their environment. Whatever the reason, tell the nursing staff and they will place you in a position of comfort and administer pain medication or sleeping medication as needed.
4. Many patients experience constipation after surgery because of the pain medication, decreased activity, alterations in diet, and administration of Iron. To prevent constipation, you will be given stool softeners and/or laxatives prophylactically starting the night of your surgery. You should drink plenty of fluids and increase your fiber intake. Your nurse will administer laxatives to assist you in having a bowel movement. You may continue to experience constipation after discharge. You may need to continue taking stool softeners or laxatives at home.
5. During waking hours, continue your walking program to reduce the pain, swelling, muscle tightness, and to reduce your risk for blood clot.
6. Continue use of your incentive spirometer (IS) and deep breathing exercises.
7. Continue to wear your support stockings (TED hose).
8. The nurse may change your dressing every day (as ordered by your surgeon) after the original surgical dressing has been removed. Newer forms of dressing may not require changing. Your nurse will teach you and your family how to care for your incision after discharge. It is normal to have some swelling and bruising. Please ask your nurse if you have any questions.
9. If there is still a foley catheter in place, it is removed and nursing staff will assist you to the bathroom or bedside commode. Urinals at bedside and/or bedpans will not be permitted at this point in your recovery.
10. You will be encouraged to attend to your personal hygiene as much as possible. It is considered part of your rehabilitation. You will be given as much assistance as you need with a morning sponge bath

## **Physical Therapy**

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You will receive physical therapy twice a day while in the hospital, likely beginning the morning of POD #1.

During your hospital stay, physical therapy is responsible for teaching you the following:

- How to walk using a front wheeled walker (FWW) while maintaining weight-bearing limits as ordered by your surgeon.
- The proper technique of getting out of bed without using any assistive devices in preparation for discharge home.
- The proper technique for bending and straightening stretches. As well as proper technique for leg exercises to strengthen your leg after surgery.
- How to get in and out of a chair / on and off a toilet using proper body mechanics.
- You will be educated on the mechanism of disability (protective response) and how to manage this. The “Protective Response” your body initiates following surgery is pain and swelling. This combination is intended to protect your body from further injury if trauma occurs. Your body equates surgery with trauma. Our job is to assist the body in reducing the “protective response” as we introduce activity. As the “protective response” decreases, we will have freer movement and increasing strength allowing for better mobility.

The physical therapist will measure the range of motion of your surgical leg each day. This information is given to your surgeon and used to document your progress.

A general rule of thumb is to let your pain be your guide to the amount of walking you do each day. Use walking as a tool to decrease symptoms.

Your surgeon will advise you on how long you must use the walker.

Do not place a pillow directly under your knee while lying down. A pillow under the knee will allow the knee to swell easier and increase your risk of not being able to straighten your leg.

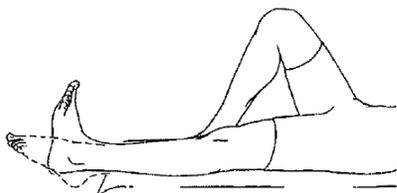
No heavy lifting.

Your discharge goals are:

- ✓ To bend your knee at least 90 degrees and completely straighten your leg
- ✓ To move in and out of bed without assistance
- ✓ To safely use a walker while maintaining your weight bearing status

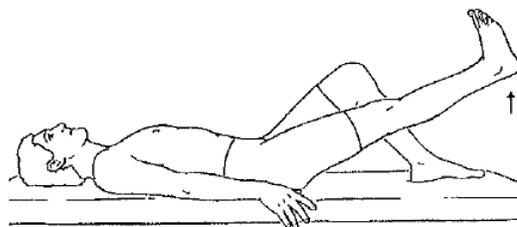
## Total Knee Replacement Exercises

### Ankle Pumps



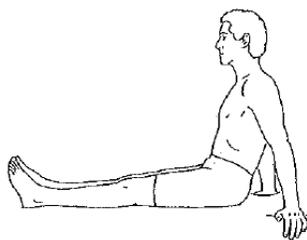
At least hourly while awake  
With both legs relaxed, gently flex and extend ankle.  
Move through full range of motion. Avoid pain.  
Repeat 10 times per set.

### Straight Leg Raise



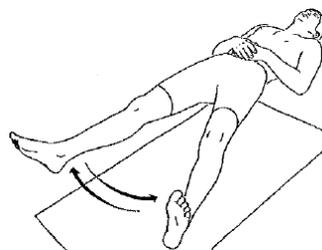
Tighten muscles on front of operated thigh, then lift leg 6 inches from surface, keeping knee locked.  
Repeat 10 times per set.  
Do 2 sets per session.  
Do 2 sessions per day.

### Quadriceps Set



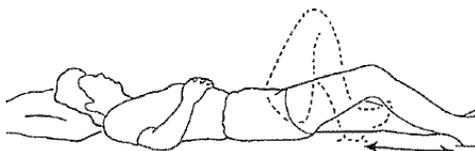
Tighten muscles on top of thighs by pushing knees down into surface. Hold for 5 seconds. This can be done lying down as well.  
Repeat 10 times per set.  
Do 2 sets per session.  
Do 2 sessions per day.

### Hip Abduction/ Adduction



Bring operated leg out to side and return. Keep knee straight.  
Repeat 10 times per set.  
Do 2 sets per session.  
Do 2 sessions per day.

### Lower Extremity- Strengthening Exercises Hip and Knee Flexion

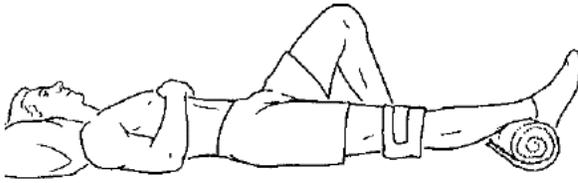


1. Lie on your back with your legs out straight.
2. Keep your kneecap pointed toward the ceiling throughout the exercise.
3. Slowly slide your foot back toward your buttocks, bending your knee and hip.
4. Slowly lower leg to the starting position.
5. Repeat 10 times per set.
6. Do 2 sets per session.
7. Do 2 sessions per day.

## **Total Knee Replacement Exercises**

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### Extension Stretch

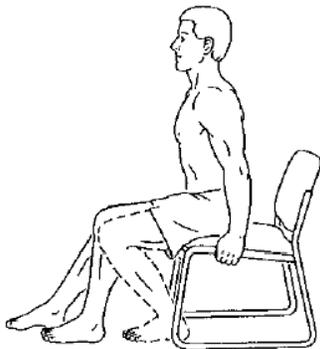


### **Following each walk**

Place the heel of your operated leg on a towel roll or pillow (chair if seated) for 10-15. Allow leg to straighten to tolerance. Do not allow leg to roll out.

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### Flexion Stretch



### **Following each walk**

Pull operated leg back as far as possible and hold that position for 15 seconds. Then slide forward in chair to tolerance without moving operated foot and hold for 15 seconds. Repeat one more time then relax.

## Using Your Walker

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The physical therapist or nursing staff will ensure your walker is properly adjusted and explain the safety requirements to you the first time you use your walker. Be sure the walker you plan to use at home has wheels **ONLY** on the front.



### **Fitting the Walker**

1. **Safety** – Walkers are designed to fold flat making them transportable. You will hear a click when you open each side of the walker. This click indicates the locking mechanism is in proper position and the walker is safe to use.
2. **Proper Fit** – To ensure the walker is the proper height for you, stand in the walker with the cross bar in front of you. When your arms are relaxed at your sides, the handgrips of the walker should be approximately level with your wrists. When grasping the handgrips, your shoulders should be level and relaxed and both arms should be just slightly bent at the elbows. All four legs of the walker are adjustable and the fitting process takes only a few minutes.
3. **Your own Walker** – If you have your own walker that you would like to use at home, please have someone bring the walker to the hospital the day of surgery. Leave it in the car and have someone bring it in once you are to the inpatient room. This will ensure the physical therapists have the time needed to evaluate the walker for proper fit and condition. Don't forget to wipe your walker down with Clorox wipes!

## Weight Bearing Status

After surgery, your surgeon will determine the amount of weight you may place on your surgical leg. This is your weight-bearing status and there are several that your surgeon may order. They are:

1. Non-Weight Bearing – You may NOT put any weight on the surgical leg.
2. Toe Touch Weight Bearing – The toes of your surgical leg touch the floor but no weight is placed on them.
3. Partial Weight Bearing – You may place a percentage of weight on your surgical leg. Your surgeon will determine the percentage of weight allowed.
4. Weight Bearing As Tolerated – You are allowed to place as much weight on your surgical leg as you can tolerate.

## To Stand Using A Walker

1. To stand, use one hand to push up from the bed or chair, your other hand to push down on the walker while at the same time pushing up with your non-surgical leg.
2. Once you are standing, place both hands on the walker's handgrips and stay standing for a few moments to gain your balance.

## Walker Safety

- Before you take each step, you must ensure that all four (4) legs of the walker are on the floor.
- Your body must be inside the walker before you move to take each step.
- Your toes should never pass the front crossbar of the walker to prevent losing your balance.
- Move the walker a comfortable arm's length in front of you. If you feel like you are reaching or bending forward to take a step, the walker is too far forward.
- Wear well-fitting shoes.
  - Never wear sandals, thongs, flip-flops, or high heels. Your footwear should have a back or strap that goes around the back of your foot/heel.
  - Make sure your footwear has a rubberized sole (something to create resistance between your feet and the floor).
  - Wear shoes that you have worn before, do not wear new shoes. You do not want to learn how to walk with a new joint while breaking in a new pair of shoes.

- Your foot on your surgical leg may swell after surgery; thus, your footwear should have some room for swelling.
- If you wear athletic shoes, you can use elastic shoelaces or use ¼-inch sewing elastic in place of your regular shoelaces. It will eliminate the hassle of tying your shoes.
- Clear all walkways in your home of throw rugs, phone cords, and extension cords to prevent falls.
- If you have transition areas in your house where the floor surfaces change (i.e., carpet to tile or linoleum), ensure the surfaces are secured to the floor. Be careful not to trip or fall over these transitions.
- If you must climb stairs in your home, tell the physical therapist so you can practice before you are discharged home. When you are climbing up you must lead with your non-surgical leg and step down using your surgical leg. You will be taught how to use the stairs while you are here.

## Assistive Devices

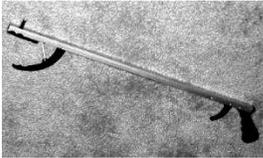
After surgery, bathing, dressing, and toileting may appear to be a major undertaking but with the right equipment and skills you will be able to adapt very easily. The nursing staff and the physical therapist will discuss how to use certain assistive devices that can increase your independence following discharge from the hospital.

*\*These items are optional and NOT provided by the hospital. Items can usually be found on Amazon or at your local drugstore (call ahead to make sure they have the item in stock).*

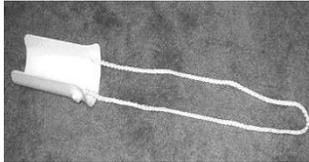
## Dressing Devices

*(Dressing should be done in a seated position with the surgical leg dressed first. When undressing, the surgical leg should be undressed last).*

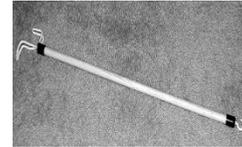
### \*Long-Handled Reacher



### \*Sock Aid



### \*Dressing Stick



### \*Long Handled Shoe Horn

## Bathing Devices

### \*Long Handled Sponge



### \*Hand Held Shower Head



### \*Shower Chair or Bench



## Toileting Devices

### \*Commode



### \*Elevated Toilet Seat



## Activities after Joint Surgery

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*\*\*\* Your surgeon has the final say on any and all of these activities. \*\*\**

### Activities you can EXPECT to perform after joint replacement once cleared by surgeon:

- Stationary bicycling
- Nordic Track (stationary skiing)
- Ballroom dancing
- Square dancing
- Golf
- Swimming
- Walking

These activities are considered very good because there is limited stress placed on the newly replaced joint. Most of the activities listed above are aerobic in nature, and are therefore, good for the heart.

### Recommended activities after joint replacement once cleared by surgeon:

- Gardening/Yard work
- Table Tennis (Ping Pong)
- Cross-country skiing
- Bicycling (street)
- Bowling
- Fencing
- Hiking
- Speed Walking
- Weightlifting

Although prior experience and skill is required for most of these activities, they are quite safe. If you would like to try any of the above activities and have no experience, it is recommended that you speak with your surgeon first. In addition, it is recommended that you receive lessons from a qualified instructor.

### Activities Requiring Surgeon Approval:

- Aerobic exercise
- Calisthenics
- Canoeing
- Downhill skiing
- Horseback riding
- Ice-skating
- In-line skating
- Jazz dancing
- Tennis–doubles

## **Activities after Joint Surgery**

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While safe in most cases, your surgeon should approve your participation in any of the above activities. Recovery from a joint replacement procedure is unique for each person. There may be precautions for you to know about before you participate in these activities.

### **Activities to be Avoided after joint replacement:**

- Baseball
- Basketball
- Football
- Handball
- Jogging
- Racquetball/squash
- Soccer
- Softball
- Step machines
- Tennis-singles
- Volleyball

The activities listed above should be avoided because of the undue stress and twisting motions that occur through the joints. Some of these activities have potential for sudden, high impact movement, which can damage your new joint.

## **Prevention of a Blood Clot**

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Everyone has a risk of developing a blood clot (a.k.a. DVT---Deep Vein Thrombosis). To reduce the risk of developing a DVT after surgery, several methods are used.

### **1. Mechanical**

- **TED Hose/Stocking (Thromboembolytic Device)**
  - They help in preventing a DVT by creating pressure on your muscles to assist the blood flow in your legs.
  - These are thick white spandex stockings worn on both of your legs.
  - These are worn during your stay in the hospital and for 2-6 weeks at home after your surgery. Your surgeon will let you know when you can discontinue using these.
  - You should have these off 1time a day for 60 minutes to prevent any skin breakdown. Please ask to have these removed if someone has not offered to do so.
  - To wash these at home, use laundry detergent and rinse well. Let them air dry. Do NOT put these in the dryer, it will ruin the elasticity.
- **SCDs/Plexi-Pulses (Sequential Compression Device)**
  - They help in preventing a DVT by imitating walking to assist the blood flow in your legs.
  - These wrap around the calves or feet of both of your legs. They are connected to a pneumatic pump, at a standard set pressure.
  - These are worn on both legs during your hospital stay. They are only worn in bed while you're at the hospital.

### **2. Medicine**

After surgery, your surgeon does not want your blood to be its normal viscosity. Your surgeon will want your blood thinner than usual to reduce the chance for a DVT to develop. There are two basic types of medicines used to do this: oral and injections. Your surgeon will prescribe which one he/she thinks is best.

- **Oral Anti-Coagulants/Blood Thinners**
  - Taken orally
  - Duration of therapy is determined by your physician
  - You may need to have your blood drawn periodically until off of it
  - You will need to restrict your intake of foods high in Vitamin K if taking Coumadin (Vit K reverses the effects of Coumadin)

- Injectable Anti-Coagulants/Blood Thinners
  - Self-administered injection to the abdomen
  - Duration of therapy is determined by your physician
  - Do NOT have to have your blood drawn
  - Do NOT have to restrict your diet
  - Patient or caretaker will be administering this injection at home

### **Compartment Syndrome**

Compartment syndrome is a painful condition that occurs when pressure within the muscles builds to dangerous levels. This pressure can decrease blood flow, which prevents nourishment and oxygen from reaching nerve and muscle cells.

*The classic sign of acute compartment syndrome is pain, especially when the muscle within the compartment is stretched.*

- The pain is more intense than what would be expected from the injury itself. Using or stretching the involved muscles increases the pain.
- There may also be tingling or burning sensations (paresthesia) in the skin.
- The muscle may feel tight or full.
- Numbness and paralysis are late signs of compartment syndrome. They usually indicate permanent tissue injury.

## **Medications During your Stay at Arizona Spine and Joint Hospital**

### **What medications should I bring with me?**

- Bring Your Current Prescription Medications
- Bring all prescription medications in their ORIGINAL CONTAINERS with pharmacy labels attached – No loose pills please.
- Be sure to bring any prescription eye drops, inhalers, creams or ointments, and insulin vials or pens.
- Bring any prescription patches you will need during your stay, such as hormone patches or patches for pain control.
- Bring narcotic pain medications **only** if they are Extended Release pills and you take them on a scheduled basis.
- If you don't want to bring in all your pills be sure to bring at least a 3-day supply for each medication

### **What Should I Leave At Home?**

- **Do Not Bring Expired Medications** – They may not be used in the hospital
- **Do Not Bring Weekly or Monthly Medications** that are not due during your stay – however, DO let us know you are taking them
- **Do Not Bring Over-The-Counter Medications or Dietary Supplements** unless they are in a brand new sealed bottle, but DO let us know what supplements you are taking
- **Do Not Bring Any cannabis, marijuana or CBD Products** but DO let us know you are taking them
- **Do Not Bring These Controlled Substances:**
  - **Narcotics** for pain such as Vicodin/Norco (hydrocodone), Percocet, Lortab, OxyContin, oxycodone, morphine, Dilaudid (hydromorphone), Demerol (meperidine), Ultram (tramadol), or Soma (carisoprodol)
  - **Sleep Aids** such as Ambien (zolpidem), Restoril (temazepam), Klonopin (clonazepam)
  - **Anti-Anxiety Medications** such as Ativan (lorazepam), Xanax (alprazolam), Halcion (triazolam)

## **Medications During your Stay at Arizona Spine and Joint Hospital**

### **What will happen to my medications?**

- The nurse that greets you before surgery will collect your home medications and drop them off at the pharmacy
- A pharmacist will review each medication and compare it to what you have reported taking at home
- The pharmacist will notify the hospital doctor about your home medications
- The hospital doctor will write an order to continue any home medications that are indicated during your stay
- Your home medications will be sealed by the pharmacist and stored in a locked medication room during your stay. They will be returned to you or an authorized family member at the time of discharge.

### **Important Notes:**

- Sometimes the hospital doctor will not restart your home medications until the day after surgery.
- If you are taking oral medications for diabetes, you may be placed on insulin temporarily until you are able to eat a regular diet.
- NO medications or supplements of any kind may be kept in a patient's room at the bedside without an order from the hospital doctor.

*For safety reasons we will usually dispense medications from the hospital pharmacy supply. During your stay, we may change your home medication to an equivalent dose of another drug. We will only use your home supply if we do not have your same drug or a suitable substitute in the pharmacy. If you prefer, we use your med supply, please verbalize this request to the hospitalist.*

- Your surgeon or the hospital doctor will order pain medications for you as well as medications for anxiety or sleep if necessary. Our nursing staff will administer the medication from our pharmacy.

### **Medications During your Stay at Arizona Spine and Joint Hospital**

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#### What if I am not sure whether or not to bring in a medication?

- Call the pharmacy at 480-824-1260. If there is no answer, leave a message with your name and number and they will call you back.

#### What if I have medication related questions before my stay?

- Please call the pharmacy at the above number.

#### What if I have medication related questions during my stay?

- Please ask your nurse to have the pharmacist visit you.

### **Medication purpose and side effects**

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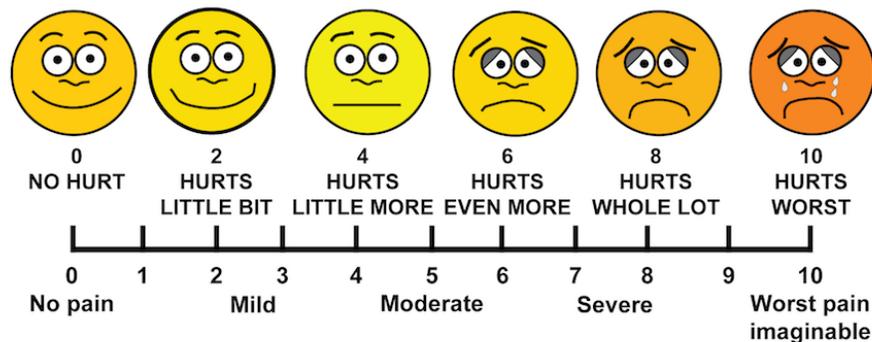
- Your nurse will describe the purpose of a medication and the possible effects prior to you taking them.
- If you do not understand the purpose or side effect, please ask for the description to be repeated. The nurse may ask you to repeat back the information to ensure you understand.
- Your nurse will review your medications with you when you are discharged to make sure you know what to continue taking at home. He or she will return your home medications and answer any questions.

## PAIN

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We use the faces pain scale at Arizona Spine and Joint Hospital. Everyone's pain is different and by using this scale, we can evaluate how effectively we are managing your pain. We will ask you to rate your pain on a scale of zero (0) to ten (10). Zero (0) is no pain and ten (10) is the worst pain imaginable.

### PAIN MEASUREMENT SCALE



Pain is a natural response that your body has to an outside stressor. You will experience pain after your joint replacement. Our goal while you are here is to control your pain, but eliminating your pain is not realistic. We will teach you how to control your pain, keeping it at a tolerable level. There are several methods we use to assist in your control of your pain: medicine, ice/heat, position change, distraction, exercise, etc.

Remember that the pain you have before surgery and the pain you have after surgery are two different types of pain. After surgery, you will experience pain from being operated on. You will also experience pain in different places than before. This is because you are now using parts of your body that you have not used in many years (because you have been compensating by walking a different way to avoid the pain you previously had in that joint).

We do not want to “drug” you while you are in the hospital, but we will encourage you to take something for pain every 4-6 hours around the clock (this is administered by patient request ONLY, so please ask your nurse for pain medicine every 4-6 hours as needed). If you treat and manage your pain like this, you will have better control of it and will be better able to participate in your physical therapy sessions. Physical therapy is the most important part of your recovery from this surgery. We do not want you to miss one of your sessions due to uncontrolled pain.

Non-medicine methods for treating pain:

- Ice packs (in varying forms) will be used during your stay in the hospital. This helps with the swelling and tenderness at the operative site.

- Position changes. Sometimes just changing your position will alleviate your pain. Things such as getting back into bed (if you have been in the chair for some time) or getting out of bed to sit in the chair. Turning onto your non-operative side in bed. There are several different ways to achieve this. If you are uncomfortable, please ask your nurse and we will find a way to help you.
- Relaxation Techniques: deep breathing, meditation, prayer, listening to music, visualization, watching TV, reading, etc.

**Increasing your comfort level during your hospital stay:**

Our goal is to achieve comfort not complete pain relief. Pain is a healthy human response following surgery. Pain will be elevated in the first week post-surgery. The goal is to *reduce* that pain. Being pain free is not a realistic goal. We will use medication as well as position changes, cold therapies and environmental changes to promote patient comfort. Remember to SPEAK UP and let your nurse know if you feel that we are not managing your pain effectively.

## **Going Home**

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Things to remember once you are discharged:

- Drink plenty of fluids, with water being the most desirable.
- Increase your fiber intake.
- Monitor your bowel movements and continue to take stool softeners and/or laxatives to prevent constipation.
- Control your pain. Be sure to monitor your pain level and continue taking your pain medication as instructed by the hospital. You may even want to write down when you took your pain pills and how many. This will help you to keep track of your pain medication usage and avoid any confusion regarding when you last took a dose.
- Keep using your TED hose as instructed by your surgeon.
- Care for your incision as instructed by the discharge nurse and by your surgeon. Be sure to watch for signs and symptoms of infection (as instructed by your discharge nurse). Keep the wound area clean and dry.
- Be sure to wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water before handling your incision. This will help prevent infection.
- Call your surgeon's office to obtain a follow-up appointment if it is not already scheduled. This visit is usually 10-14 days after your surgery.
- Remember that you will need to inform every doctor and dentist that you see, that you have had an artificial joint placed in your body. You will need to be given a prophylactic antibiotic before any invasive procedure (this includes routine dental cleanings).

## Appendix A

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### Preparing Your Home

There are several things you can do to get your home ready for your return from your hospital stay. Things you may want to consider doing are:

- Getting a bag or bicycle basket to attach to your walker. It can hold all of things you may want to be with you (e.g. phone, Kleenex, TV remote, etc.)
- Pick up all throw rugs and cords. Make sure any loose edges between carpet and tile/linoleum are secured to the floor.
- Cover any slippery surfaces with non-skid surfaces.
- Be sure to have good night lighting (for when you have to get up in the middle of the night—so you will not trip with your walker).
- Put all items you will need in the kitchen and bathroom at waist height (to prevent you from reaching too high and stooping too low).
- Stock up on paper products (plates, cups). You should not stand for prolonged periods of time, so doing dishes and/or laundry is not recommended.
- Install a moveable showerhead. It will be dangerous for you to try and turn around in the shower with a leg that has been operated on coupled with the fact that you are wet and soapy. It would be much safer for you to stand in one place and use a moveable showerhead.
- Shower chair/plastic resin chair for your shower. It will be much safer for you sit in the shower for the first couple of times due to the above-mentioned items.
- Complete any yard care that cannot wait 4-6 weeks.
- Complete any house cleaning that cannot wait 4-6 weeks.
- Consider if you need a grab bar installed next to your toilet to help you on and off it (it needs to be drilled/secured into the wall studs, not the drywall). Or do you have a sturdy countertop that you can use to assist you? You may NOT use the toilet paper holder, towel bar, or cabinet to assist you.

### Adaptive Equipment

After surgery, you may potentially need additional equipment such as a raised toilet seat or a shower chair/bench. These items are usually not covered by insurance. Check to see if you can borrow these items from friends, loan closets in retirement communities, or loan closets in local organizations. These items may also be purchased at:

- Pharmacy stores (Walgreen's, CVS)
- Lowe's, Home Depot, Thrift Stores, Online ordering (Amazon)
- Home Care Supply Stores:

Laguna Medical, Inc. 480-894-0360 325 E Southern Avenue Suite 104 Tempe, AZ 85282 Some items are deliverable	Mediquip 480-800-8712 319 S Power Rd Mesa, AZ 85206
Medical Super Center 480-924-5914 5050 E University Drive Suite 110 Mesa, AZ 85205	

## Appendix B

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### Home Assistance

It is very likely that you may need some assistance at home with meal preparation, housekeeping, and errands for the first week you are home. This is especially important if you live alone. We recommend you make arrangements several weeks before your surgery date. Possible resources are:

- Family – If you have family coming in from out of town, they need to have flexible travel arrangements in case your surgeon recommends further therapy at an Extended Care Facility (ECF). An ECF would delay your return home by about one week.
- Friends or Neighbors – If you have several people they can spread out the tasks to keep from overwhelming one person.
- Church – Many churches have groups that are available to provide assistance.
- Non-Medical Home Assistance – People you can hire to assist you for a set period of time (see below).

Arizona Lullaby Guild	602-852-0459
Home For Me	480-599-8529
Care from the Heart	623-875-4440
Always Caring	480-491-1140
Foothills Caring Corp	480-488-1105
Home Instead Senior Care	480-827-4343
Plus 50-Mesa Senior Center	480-962-5612
Senior Adult Independent Living (SAIL)	602-264-4357
Sunland Home Care	480-447-8893

## **Appendix C**

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### **Extended Care Facilities (ECFs)/ Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF)**

This is a list of the facilities nearest to our hospital. This list does not contain all the extended care facilities (ECFs) in the surrounding area. Arizona Spine and Joint Hospital has no affiliation with these ECFs. Therefore, the staff cannot provide any information as to service availability, space availability, or quality of care provided by the facilities.

A current, comprehensive list of providers for your geographical area is available from the hospital case manager. You may choose any provider you would like.

If an ECF has already been discussed and approved by your surgeon, we suggest you call several of the ECFs close to your home and ask to take a tour of the facility and speak with one of the administrators. While speaking with the administrator you may want to ask the following questions:

- Is your organizations Medicare-certified, state licensed, and/or JCAHO (Joint Commission for the Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations) accredited?
- What services does your organization offer?
- Are your caregivers carefully selected? If so, how?
- Do you obtain a criminal background check of your caregivers?
- Are your caregivers bonded and insured?
- Can you provide references?
- Do you provide Physical Therapy twice a day? On Saturday and Sunday?

Advanced Health Care of Scottsdale  
9846 North 95<sup>th</sup> Street  
Scottsdale, AZ 85258  
480-214-4200

Advanced Health Care of Mesa  
5755 East Main Street  
Mesa, AZ 85205  
480-214-2400

Desert Cove Nursing Center  
1750 West Frye Road  
Chandler, AZ 85224  
480-899-0641

East Mesa Health Care Center  
51 South 48th Street  
Mesa, AZ 85206  
480-832-8333

Sante of Chandler  
825 S. 94th Street  
Chandler, AZ 85224  
480-361-6636

Sante of Mesa  
5358 E. Baseline Rd  
Mesa, AZ 85206  
480-699-9624

The Center at Val Vista  
3744 South Rome Street  
Gilbert, AZ 85297  
480-224-9500

**Appendix D**

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**Transportation Options****WHEELCHAIR/STRETCHER VANS**

Quality 602-371-1000

**AMBULANCE**

AMR 844-300-3606

**TAXI CABS**

Quality 602-371-1000

**AIRPORT**

Super Shuttle (*to and from the airport*) 602-244-9000

**VALLEY METRO**

602-253-5000

**PHONE APPLICATIONS**

Lyft

Uber

Super Shuttle (Airport Transportation)

## Appendix E

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### **Meal Preparation Options**

- Prior to your surgery, prepare and freeze approximately 1-2 weeks of meals that can be reheated or microwaved.
- You should plan to eat your meals at home for the first two weeks. You might want to stock up on your favorite foods before surgery.
- Rearrange your refrigerator and pantry by placing the most frequently used items waist high. This will prevent you from bending or stooping over.
- Try to arrange delivery of your groceries from the local supermarket. Contact “Meals-on-Wheels” or “Meals While You Heal” to deliver meals to your home while you are recovering.

#### Mesa Meals on Wheels

- 480-962-5612
- Boundaries: East to West: Val Vista to Dobson  
North to South: McKellips to Baseline
- Eligibility: None
- No Special Diets

#### Mesa Senior Center-Meals While You Heal Program

- 480-962-5612
- Frozen Meals
- No weekend delivery
- You can be in the program for one month
- Boundaries: All of Mesa, West of Meridian
- Suggested donation: \$1.50 (subsidized)
- Eligibility: Apply through Maricopa County Area Agency on Aging (SAIL) Central Intake (602-681-8733) or the Mesa Senior Center. Must be homebound, includes physically disabled persons less than 60 years.
- Special Diets: Yes - diabetic and low sodium with doctor’s order

#### Mesa Senior Center

- 480-962-5612
- Private Pay
- Cost: \$4.00 a meal
- 2-3 week wait
- Special Diet: Yes - diabetic and low sodium with doctor’s order
- Frozen Meals
- No Weekend Deliveries

## Appendix F

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### **Home Health (Medical) Providers**

A current, comprehensive list of providers for your geographical area is available from the hospital case manager. You may choose any provider you would like to use.

## Appendix G

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### **Frequently Asked Questions**

- Can I sleep on my side?  
Yes, you may. The staff will assist you in doing this. Please do not do this on your own.
- Can I move my legs?  
Yes, although pain may be a limiting factor.
- Why do I not want my leg on a pillow at the knee?  
A pillow underneath your knee will allow the leg to suffer additional swelling, pain with standing, and will increase your risk of flexion contracture.
- Why is it so hard to move my leg after surgery?  
This is due to Neurologic Inhibition. Your knee has suffered trauma and your body wants to protect the area by not wanting you to move it. It is also due to the spinal anesthesia and/or nerve blocks you received before surgery.
- How much movement did I regain in surgery and how much should I be able to do obtain?  
Full extension to 120-140 degrees of flexion.
- Where will I go after I am discharged from the hospital?  
You will be discharged directly to your home if you are stable and can:
  - Sit to Stand by yourself
  - Get in and out of bed by yourself
  - Ambulate a safe and comfortable distance (usually 100 feet).
 You will be offered the option of being transferred to an Extended Care Facility if you are unable to meet the above requirements, and your surgeon orders it.
- It may require two (2) physician signatures to discharge you home. One from your surgeon and one from the hospitalist who attends to you during your stay. Please be patient with us during this process. It may take up to 4 hours to complete the discharge process.
- Will I need help at home?

You will need help with meal preparation, laundry, house cleaning, and bathing. When you are discharged, you will be able to get yourself in and out of bed as well as the chair or couch. We do not expect or want anyone to help you to do these things once you are home.

## **Appendix H**

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### **Hotels/Motels**

Super 8 Motel  
1550 S. Gilbert Rd.  
Mesa, AZ 85204  
480-545-0888

Best Western Superstition Springs Inn  
1342 S. Power Rd.  
Mesa, AZ 85206  
480-641-1164  
Country Inn & Suites by Carlson Mesa  
6650 E. Superstition Springs Blvd.  
Mesa, AZ 85206  
480-641-8000

Hampton Inn  
1563 S. Gilbert Rd.  
Mesa, AZ 85204  
480-926-3600

La Quinta  
6530 E. Superstition Springs Blvd.  
Mesa, AZ 85206  
480-654-1970 Sleep Inn  
6347 E. Southern Ave.  
Mesa, AZ 85206  
480-807-7760

Residence Inn – Gilbert  
3021 E. Banner Gateway Dr.  
Gilbert, AZ 85234  
480-699-4450

## Appendix I

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### Important Telephone Numbers

Admitting Office/Information Desk	480-824-1221
Case manager	480-824-1306
Inpatient Nurses' Station	480-824-1233
Joint Replacement Class	480-824-1306 or 1229
Medical Records	480-824-1284
Patient Billing	480-824-1232

### Glossary of Terms

*Case Managers:* case managers will assist you and your family with discharge planning, such as arranging for home care and necessary equipment

*Compression Device:* this plastic inflatable sleeve wraps around your feet and may be used to improve blood flow in your legs

*Continual Passive Motion (CPM) Machine:* this machine will be used to exercise your knee while increasing blood circulation, decreasing swelling and increasing your range of motion

*Foley Catheter:* this tube is used to eliminate urine from the bladder before and shortly after surgery. This remains in place with an inflated balloon.

*Hemovac Drain:* a drain that is placed near the surgical site and used to collect blood

*Incentive Spirometer (IS):* this breathing exercise device is designed to improve your ability to expand your lungs after surgery

*Intravenous (IV) Catheter:* the IV allows fluids and medications to be delivered through your blood stream

*Physical Therapist (PT):* your physical therapist will assist you in regaining mobility and function following your surgery

*Pulse Oximeter:* this clip is attached to one of your fingers to monitor the oxygen content in your blood

