

Total Hip and Knee Replacement



 **BayCare Orthopedic Institute**

[BayCare.org/Orthopedics](https://www.baycare.org/Orthopedics)



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Chapter One: General Information



Welcome to the Total Joint Replacement Program

Total Joint Replacement Surgery Class

Your Total Joint Team

Tobacco-Free Campus

Hospital Locations and Important Phone Numbers

General Information



Welcome to the Total Joint Replacement Program

Learning as much as you can about total joint 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's our hope that it'll increase your general knowledge of total joint 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 try to read the entire book before arriving for surgery.

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

This book has been prepared for information only. It shouldn't be considered a substitute for medical advice.

Total Joint Replacement Surgery Class

To help you understand your surgical and hospital experience, we've developed a total joint replacement surgery class to give you information about your surgery and recovery. Your hospital care team will discuss class options for you to make sure that you're prepared for surgery.

General Information

Your Total Joint 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

Nurses (registered nurses (RN) and/or licensed practical nurses (LPN)) will coordinate your activities while at the hospital. They'll help you learn how to move your body after surgery. They'll also take charge of your personal care, pain management and discharge planning.

Nurse Navigator

The nurse navigator is a registered nurse who'll help coordinate your care and guide you and your family during your hospital stay to ensure a positive experience.

Patient Care Leader

The patient care leader is a specialized nurse who'll help coordinate your care with your doctor, primary nurse and other health care professionals.

Physical Therapists

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

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. An occupational therapist may be requested to teach you simple techniques to make activities of daily living easier.

Patient Care Tech

The patient care tech works under the direction of an RN or LPN. They take your vital signs and help you with activities such as bathing or getting to the bathroom.

Case Manager

Case managers will help you plan your release from the hospital. They'll also communicate with your family and friends. During these discussions, case managers 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 in the hospital, you may also meet other health care professionals. These include home health, dietary and respiratory care teams.

General Information

Tobacco-Free Campus



To promote a healthy lifestyle, BayCare hospitals are tobacco-free campuses and there are no designated smoking areas. Studies have shown that smoking negatively impacts bone health. If you or a loved one smoke, you might want to consider stopping before your surgery. If you need a nicotine patch for your stay, let your physician know and one will be ordered.

In addition to talking to your doctor about options, free resources include:

- Florida Department of Health Quit Line:
(877) 822-6669
QuitNow.net/Florida
- Freedom from Smoking® Online – American Lung Association
FreedomFromSmoking.org
- Florida Area Health Education Centers:
(877) 848-6696
AHECTobacco.com
SmokeFree.gov

General Information



Hospital Locations and Important Phone Numbers

Total hip and knee replacement procedures are performed at these locations:

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Bartow Regional Medical Center
2200 Osprey Blvd.
Bartow
(863) 533-8111 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Morton Plant Hospital
300 Pinellas St.
Clearwater
(727) 462-7000 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ St. Joseph's Hospital-North
4211 Van Dyke Road
Lutz
(813) 443-7000 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ BayCare Hospital Wesley Chapel
4501 Bruce B. Downs Blvd.
Wesley Chapel
(813) 914-1000 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Morton Plant North Bay Hospital
6600 Madison St.
New Port Richey
(727) 842-8468 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ St. Joseph's Hospital-South
6901 Simmons Loop
Riverview
(813) 302-8000 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Mease Countryside Hospital
3231 McMullen Booth Road
Safety Harbor
(727) 725-6111 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ St. Anthony's Hospital
1200 Seventh Ave. N.
St. Petersburg
(727) 825-1100 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ South Florida Baptist Hospital
3202 N. Park Road
Plant City
(813) 757-1200 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Mease Dunedin Hospital
601 Main St.
Dunedin
(727) 733-1111 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ St. Joseph's Hospital
3001 W. Dr. Martin Luther
King Jr. Blvd.
Tampa
(813) 870-4000 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Winter Haven Hospital
200 Ave. F N.E.
Winter Haven
(863) 293-1121 |



Chapter Two: Meet Your Hip



The Normal Hip

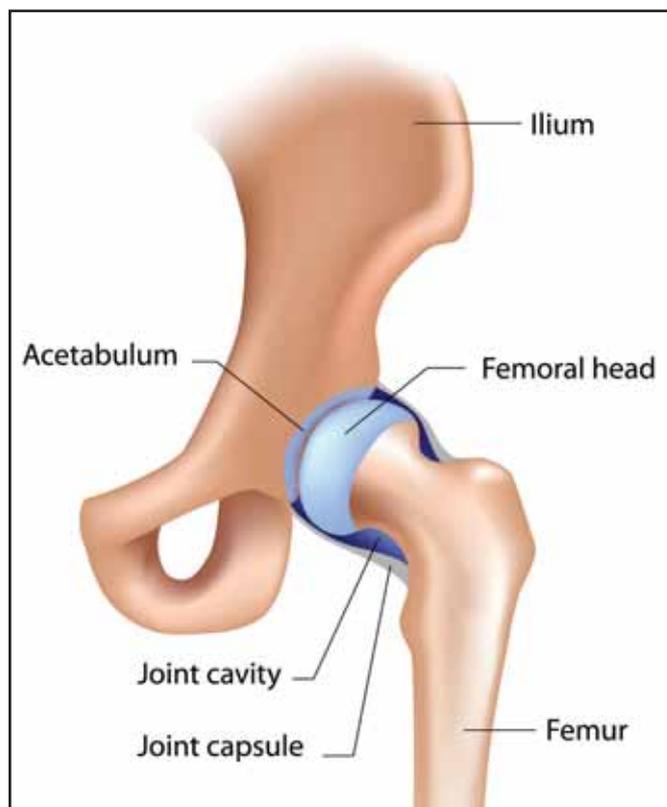
The Problem Hip

The New Hip

Meet Your Hip

The Normal Hip

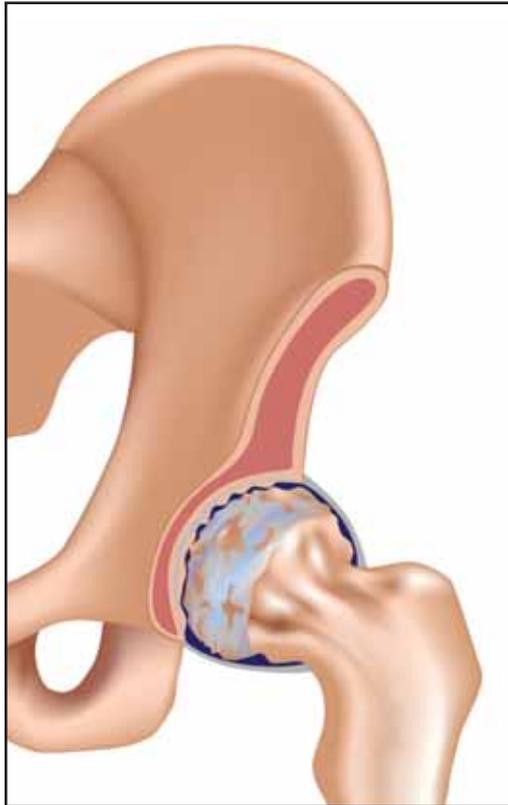
Your hip consists of a ball and socket. Both are made of bone. The head of the thigh bone (technically, the femur) constitutes the ball. The socket consists of a section of your pelvis called the acetabulum. In a normal hip, a smooth layer of tissue (called cartilage) separates the ball and the socket. 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, and the hip joint can't 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.

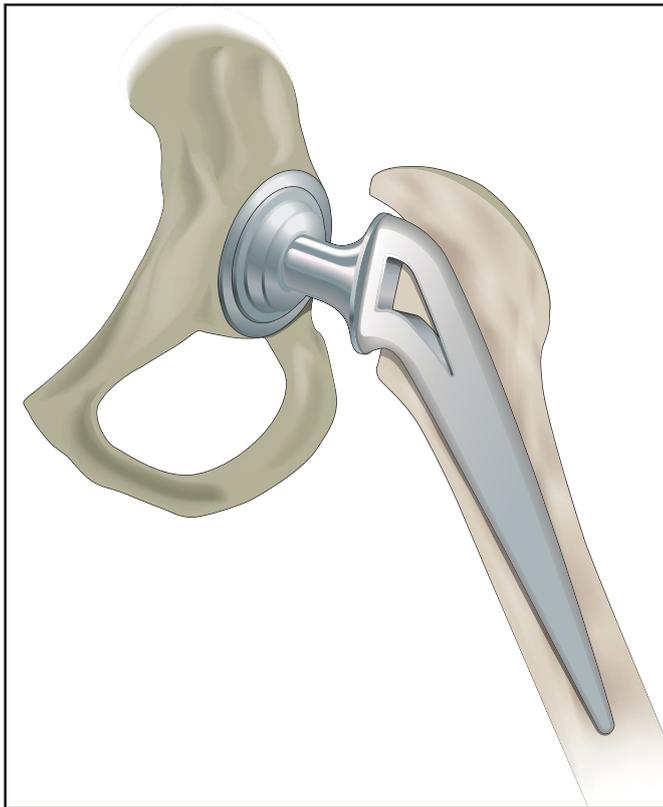


Meet Your Hip

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've recovered from surgery.

Your prosthesis will be constructed of polyethylene (a wear-resistant plastic) and metal. The metal sections of the prosthesis are usually made out of 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.



Chapter Three: Meet Your Knee



The Normal Knee

The Problem Knee

The New Knee

Meet Your Knee

The Normal Knee

The knee joint is the largest and most complex joint in the body. It has four parts:

- Two knuckle-like projections at the lower end of the thigh bone (the femur) and the upper end of the shin bone (the tibia). These areas slide against each other and allow you to bend your knee.
- Cartilage—or a smooth layer of tissue—covers joint surfaces and allows the knuckle-like projections from your thigh bone and shin bone to move smoothly against each other.
- The patella, more commonly known as the kneecap. It covers the knee joint, and is what you feel when you touch your knee.

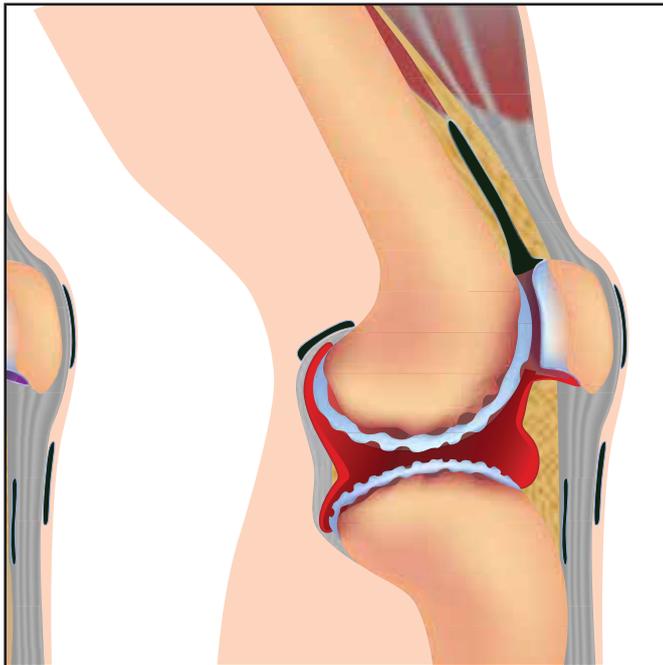


Meet Your Knee

The Problem Knee

Infection, injury and disease can all affect the way the knee works. However, arthritis is the most common cause of knee joint deterioration. Arthritis is a name used to describe a number of diseases that cause swelling of the joints and friction between the cartilage and bones. This friction causes cartilage and bone to break down. When the rough edges of the bones move against each other, the result is pain and a loss of knee movement.

Pain in your knee leads to difficulty in performing daily activities. If you experience pain when bending your knee, it'll be hard for you to climb stairs, to exercise or even to walk to the mailbox. Medication can relieve the pain for a while, but can't solve the long-term problem.



Meet Your Knee

The New Knee

During your total knee replacement, an orthopedic surgeon will remove damaged bone and cartilage from your knee and replace them with an artificial joint. The artificial joint is called a prosthesis. This artificial knee will provide a smooth surface against which your bones can move.

The upper part of the artificial knee is made of metal (typically titanium, stainless steel or cobalt) and fits into your thigh bone. The lower part fits into your shin bone and is made of metal and a type of plastic called polyethylene. These two parts touch and glide against each other just as a normal knee joint does, allowing your knee to bend more easily.

A new kneecap will fit over the front of your artificial knee. Your new knee will be held in place by special bone cement, by your bone growing into the prosthesis or by a combination of both.



Chapter Four:

Getting Ready for Surgery



Medical History, Physical Exam

Insurance Coverage

Home Health Care

Discharge to a Skilled Nursing Facility

Advance Directives

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 their best job, they need to know about your medical history. The surgeon also needs to make sure that you're healthy enough to undergo joint replacement. Your primary care physician or surgeon will examine you to determine your current health status.

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

It's very important that you tell your primary care physician about any medications you're 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 is also true for any vitamins and supplements. You'll receive further instructions on when to stop certain medications from the hospital team and your orthopedic surgeon.

Insurance Coverage

Health care benefits are constantly changing. It's important for you to understand your benefits before having surgery. Medications prescribed after surgery (for example, anticoagulants) may be costly. Call your prescription insurance provider to find out what your copays on these medications will be.

Presurgical Survey

Some insurance companies now require total joint replacement patients to report health conditions before and after surgery. We'll send you an email containing a link to a pre-op survey that you must complete. The email will be titled "Upcoming BayCare Surgery Information Required." Your response to the survey is required before your surgery date.

Getting Ready for Surgery

Our goal is to have you ready to go home after your hospital stay. However, there may be occasions when you need to have further rehabilitation. Planning for discharge is important. We'll 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 care can bridge that gap. Often this team includes physical therapists, but may also include occupation therapists, nurses and home health aides. Home health team members help you walk, regain strength and complete daily living tasks. They also monitor your condition and safety. Note: Cooking and home cleaning services aren't covered under home health care services.

You're 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 or cane
- Walk from your bedroom to your bathroom, and from your bedroom to your kitchen
- Safely navigate any stairs in your home

Contact your insurance company to understand your home health coverage. Each health plan is different and may require approval from your primary care or a third-party vendor.

Discharge to a Skilled Nursing Facility

Some patients need more help than home health care can provide. They may need skilled nursing care and/or rehabilitation. In a skilled nursing facility, 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.

Talk with professionals in your orthopedic surgeon's office and ask them to identify a facility that's right for you. If a skilled nursing facility is needed, there are lots to choose from. Our case manager will discuss options with you.



Getting Ready for Surgery

Advance Directives

Advance directives are forms that detail your choices for health care and treatment, should you become unable to talk to your doctors or make your own health care decisions, due to being sick or hurt. The best time to prepare an advance directive is while you're able to consider your wishes carefully and can discuss them with your doctor and the people close to you. In Florida, the two main types of advance directives are designation of health care surrogate and a living will.

- A designation of health care surrogate lets you choose someone to make medical decisions, based on your wishes, if you're not able to make your own decisions. You select one person and designate an additional person as a backup.
- A living will lets you choose the kind of health care you do and don't want if you have any of the conditions below. It only goes into effect if you're no longer able to make decisions or communicate your wishes yourself and are in one of these conditions:
 - A terminal or end-stage condition, and there's little or no chance of meaningful recovery
 - A condition of permanent and irreversible unconsciousness, such as coma or vegetative state
 - An irreversible and severe mental or physical illness that prevents you from communicating with others, recognizing family and friends, or caring for yourself in any way

We recommend all our patients fill out advance directives. For additional information on advance directives, copies of our forms, a step-by-step guide to filling them out and more, go to BayCare.org/AdvanceDirectives.

Before your procedure, make sure that your health care surrogate has copies of your forms, and bring a copy of these documents with you to the hospital. These forms will become part of your medical record.



Chapter Five:

Caring for Yourself – Presurgical Preparations



Preparing Your Home for Your Return

If You Live Alone

What to Pack

Bring to the Hospital

Bring to the Skilled Nursing Facility

The Day Before Your Surgery

The Morning of Your Surgery

Getting Ready for Surgery

Caring for Yourself – Presurgical Preparations

Preparing Your Home for Your Return

Homecoming should be a joyful experience for you. To make the transition from hospital 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 and bedroom 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.
- If your stair railings aren't secure, 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.
- Install grab bars in your bathtub or shower. You may also want to place them by the toilet.
- Purchase a tub bench, if needed.
- Apply adhesive slip strips to your tub or shower.
- Consider using liquid soap (in a dispenser) instead of bar soap.
- Place a phone in your primary sitting area and near your bed. Cordless phones or cell phones are very convenient. When you're 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.
- Cooking may be difficult right after surgery. Having precooked or frozen meals may be helpful.
- Select a chair that you'll use when you come home. The best chair for those recovering from total joint 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 every room. Try to buy the type with sensors that automatically turn the lights on at sundown.

Caring for Yourself – Presurgical Preparations

If You Live Alone

Those living alone will face special challenges after joint 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 and/or your laundry.
- Arrange to have your paper and mail delivered to your door instead of to your curb.
- Arrange for transportation to the grocery store, community events, your place of worship, family get-togethers and appointments with your physician and therapist.
- Find someone to help care for your pet.
- Prepare and freeze a few meals before your surgery.

What to Pack

Bringing a few items from home can make your stay in the hospital more comfortable. The majority of these items are available at the hospital, but you can bring your own if you choose.

Bring to the Hospital

- Nonskid closed-toe-to-heel slippers, sneakers or walking shoes
- Loose-fitting, comfortable clothing
- A toothbrush, toothpaste, mouthwash or denture supplies
- A comb or hairbrush
- Shaving supplies and cosmetics

Leave your jewelry and other valuables at home. Bring a credit card or small amount of cash to pay for your prescriptions before you leave the hospital. For more information on pharmacy services, see page 64. After surgery, a hospital gown will be provided, but you may wish to wear comfortable clothing during your recovery. This helps you feel like you're returning to your normal life more quickly.

You'll have access to free wireless Internet in your hospital room. You're welcome to bring your electronic devices (for example, tablet or laptop) to the hospital. The hospital isn't responsible for any lost or stolen items.

Caring for Yourself – Presurgical Preparations

Bring to the Skilled Nursing Facility

- Loose-fitting slacks, sweatpants, shorts or house dresses
- Comfortable shirts or blouses
- Pajamas or nightgowns
- Socks
- Underwear
- A light jacket or sweater
- Books and magazines

The Day Before Your Surgery

- You'll be instructed by your surgical team on when to stop eating and drinking before your surgery. Be aware that your surgery can be delayed if you don't follow these instructions.
- The night before surgery, you'll receive a phone call from the hospital with the time to arrive the day of surgery.
- Report any changes in your physical condition to your physicians. A number of problems may require postponing your surgery. These include a sore throat, a cold, a fever, dental problems, difficulty urinating and skin conditions such as rashes or abrasions.

The Morning of Your Surgery

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

- If you've been instructed to take medications in the morning, swallow them with only a small sip of water. Don't drink or eat anything else unless instructed by your doctor.
- Shower according to the instructions given to you in pre-admission testing (i.e., no lotions, powders or colognes).
- Give yourself plenty of time to arrive at the hospital as directed.

Caring for Yourself – Presurgical Preparations

Getting Ready for Surgery

Having surgery is a lot like running a marathon. In the days and weeks before *and* after surgery, your body needs training and good nutrition to help you have the best recovery. Here's what you can do to get ready.



Increase your energy needs:

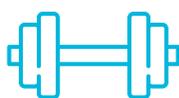
Your body burns a lot of energy during and after surgery. Increase your calories with nutrition-packed foods.



Maintain hydration:

It's important to drink plenty of water in the days leading up to your surgery.

Try to drink six to eight 8-ounce glasses of water every day. Follow your physician's instructions on when to stop eating or drinking before surgery.



Muscle loss:

After you burn certain calories, your body begins breaking down

muscle for energy. This can reduce your strength and slow down your recovery. Protect your muscles by eating protein-rich foods and exercising before and after surgery.



Lower immunity:

Stress from surgery can lower your immune system. Taking nutrition supplements with proteins, vitamins and minerals may help with your immune health and recovery.



Unintended weight loss:

After surgery, some people have nausea and don't want to eat or drink. This can lead to weight loss. If this is a problem for you, talk to your doctor and consider a nutrition supplement.

In older adults, three days of being in bed after surgery can result in muscle loss. To help with recovery and prevent muscle loss, eat right and get moving after surgery.



Chapter Six:

Therapy Before and After Surgery



Surgery Strengthening Program

Exercises

Surgery Progress Chart

Total Hip Replacement Modifications

Surgery Mobility Exercises

Therapy Before and After Surgery

Surgery Strengthening Program

Because of your joint discomfort, you may have been living a less active life than you'd like. Having your hip or knee replaced will correct your joint problem, but it won't strengthen the muscles surrounding your joint. Strengthening your muscles is your responsibility.

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 and after surgery. Because everyone responds to exercise differently, only you can judge how much exercise to complete each day. Before surgery, perform each exercise within your tolerance, but if it becomes too uncomfortable you can discontinue that specific exercise.

Try to exercise once or twice every 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.

Therapy Before and After Surgery

Exercises

Ankle Pumps (Hips/Knees)

(A) Lie on your back with a pillow supporting your head.

(B) Move your ankles, pointing your toes upward toward you, and then pointing them downward away from you. In addition, rotate your foot clockwise and counterclockwise, keeping your toes pointed toward the ceiling.



Thigh Squeezes (Hips/Knees)

Lie on your back with a pillow supporting your head. Tighten the muscles in the front of your thigh (the area indicated by the physical therapist's hands) by pushing the back of your knees down onto the bed. Hold for five seconds.



Buttocks Squeezes (Hips/Knees)

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



Therapy Before and After Surgery

Heel Slides (Hips/Knees)

(A) Lie on your back with a pillow supporting your head.

(B) Bend your knee by sliding your heel up toward your buttocks, similar movement as if you were to remove your sock by sliding your heel against the bed. Keep your heel on the bed. Keep your kneecap pointed toward the ceiling throughout the exercise. Slide your heel back to the start position.



Lying Kicks (Hips/Knees)

(A) Lie on your back with a 3-pound coffee can or rolled towel under your knee.

(B) Straighten your knee and raise your foot off the bed. Hold for five seconds. Slowly lower your foot back to the bed. The back of your knee should stay in contact with the can or towel throughout the exercise.



Therapy Before and After Surgery

Straight Leg Raises (Knees)

(A) Lie on your back with a pillow supporting your head. Bend your nonsurgical leg and keep that foot flat on the bed. (B) Raise your surgical leg approximately 12 inches, keeping your knee straight. Hold briefly. Lower your leg to the starting position. Progress to holding for five seconds.



Bed Mobility Exercise (Hips/Knees)

Tell your therapist if you have a back issue as the technique may be modified.

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



Sitting Kicks (Hips/Knees)

(A) Sit in a sturdy chair. (B) Lift your surgical leg and straighten your knee as much as possible. Hold for five seconds. Return to the starting position and relax.



Therapy Before and After Surgery

Chair Push-Up (Hips/Knees)

(A) Sit on a sturdy chair with arms. Make sure the chair doesn't have wheels and is high enough. Grasp the armrests of the chair. (B) Push down on the armrests of the chair, 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.



Hamstring Sets (Hips/Knees)

(A) Lie on your back with a pillow supporting your head. Bend the surgical leg at the knee to tolerance while keeping the heel on the bed. (B) Tighten the muscle on the back of your thigh by digging your heel into the bed. Hold for five seconds.



Therapy Before and After Surgery

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																												
<input type="checkbox"/> Thigh Squeezes																												
<input type="checkbox"/> Buttocks Squeezes																												
<input type="checkbox"/> Heel Slides																												
<input type="checkbox"/> Lying Kicks																												
<input type="checkbox"/> Straight Leg Raises																												
<input type="checkbox"/> Bed Mobility Exercise																												
<input type="checkbox"/> Sitting Kicks																												
<input type="checkbox"/> Chair Push-Up																												
<input type="checkbox"/> Hamstring Sets																												

Therapy Before and After Surgery

Total Hip Replacement Modifications

Hip surgery patients may require special modifications **if ordered by your physician**. Your therapist will instruct you on safety recommendations related to your surgery. Following these restrictions will help you heal faster and reduce the risk of dislocating your new hip during recovery.

Surgery Mobility Exercises

Until your joint heals from surgery, you may need to learn how to move differently even when performing the most common tasks such as getting in and out of bed, or getting on and off a chair. Practice the following mobility techniques before surgery, so you'll know how to move after surgery.

Getting in Bed

- Back up toward the bed until you feel it against the back of your legs.
- Place your surgical leg forward.
- Reach for the bed surface, lowering yourself slowly to the edge.
- Scoot back on the bed until your knees feel supported.
- Gradually turn your body until you're straight in the bed.



Therapy Before and After Surgery

Getting Out of Bed

- Come to a sitting position in the bed.
- Push with your hands and slide your body across the bed until you're sitting at the edge.
- Place your surgical leg forward.
- Push off the bed and stand up.
- Don't reach for a walking device until your balance is secure.



Sitting On a Chair or Toilet

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



Getting Off a Chair or Toilet

- Move toward the edge of the chair or toilet.
- Push off with your arms while leaning forward slightly.
- Don't reach for a walking device until your balance is secure.



Therapy Before and After Surgery

Sitting in an Armless Chair

We recommend chairs with armrests.

- To sit down, back up toward the chair until you feel it against the back of your legs.
- Place your surgical leg forward.
- Reach back for the seat of the chair with one or both of your arms, depending on the height of the chair, and sit down. (If the chair is high, reach back with both arms. If the chair is low, reach back with one arm.)



Getting Out of an Armless Chair

We recommend chairs with armrests.

- Place your surgical leg forward.
- Push up from the chair with both hands.
- Don't 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 therapist. They can give you some tips for your bathroom.



Therapy Before and After Surgery

- Buy a tub bench. Have it placed in your bathtub or shower.
- Back up to the side of the bench, then place your surgical leg forward.
- Reach back for the edge of the tub bench and sit down.
- Scoot back far enough in your seat then lift your legs one at a time into the tub.
If you can't use your own muscles to move your surgical leg, you can use a leg lifter to lift your leg into the tub.
- Slide your bottom further onto the tub bench so that you're sitting in the center of the seat.

Getting Out of the Shower/Tub

- Slide your bottom toward the tub edge.
- Lift your legs one at a time out of the tub. If you can't use your own muscles to move your surgical leg, you can use a leg lifter to lift your leg out of the tub.
- Once your legs are over the tub ledge, scoot and turn forward toward the edge of the bench.
- Push up from the bench with both hands, or use handrails to pull yourself up with the surgical leg forward.
- Don't reach for a walking device until your balance is secure.

For Walk-In Showers

- Your therapist may recommend practicing how to get in and out of a walk-in shower with the use of a shower chair.

How to Go Up and Down Stairs

Your therapist will review the specifics of stair climbing with you. In general:

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



Therapy Before and After Surgery

Getting in a Car

We recommend sitting in the front passenger seat.

Placing a large plastic bag on the car seat will help you move more easily. Move the car seat back as far as possible. Tilt/recline the seat back. A high car will need a step stool. If you have a low car, you may need a seat cushion or firm pillow to raise the seat.

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 with your assistive device. Place your surgical leg forward.
- Reach back and find a stable surface to hold onto with your hand—a dashboard or seatback will do.
- Slowly lower yourself onto the seat.
- Scoot back into the car seat. Ask for help from a friend, or use a leg lifter to lift your surgical leg as you bring your legs into the car.



Getting Out of a Car

- Lift your right leg out of the car first. If the right leg is your surgical leg, ask for help or use a leg lifter to lift your right leg out of the car.
- After both legs are out of the car, scoot to the edge of the seat as you turn your body toward the door, and place your feet on the ground (not on the curb or uneven surface). Place your surgical leg forward.
- Using the handholds discussed in “Getting In a Car,” push with your arms and use your legs to stand.
- Don't reach for your walking device until your balance is secure.

Chapter Seven:

Surgery and Recovery

At the Hospital

Pre-Op Surgical Unit

Keeping You Safe

Holding Room

About Anesthesia

Operating Room

Recovery Room

Patient Unit

Managing Your Pain

Pain Management Feedback

**Other Pain Management Treatments –
Nonmedication Measures to Treat Pain**

Importance of Controlling Pain

Medication Side Effects

Patient Care Plan

A Word About Visitors

Discharge

Surgery and Recovery

At the Hospital

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

Pre-Op Surgical Unit

- When you first arrive at the hospital, you'll meet with a nurse. The nurse will ask for your name and birthdate. A white hospital band printed with a bar code will be placed around your wrist. If you're allergic to any medications or food, a red wristband will also be applied to your wrist with a list of your allergies.
- You'll be admitted into the presurgical area and will change into a hospital gown.
- Your vital signs (temperature, heart rate, blood pressure and respiration rate) will be assessed. You'll also be asked to rate your pain on the pain scale.
- Your chart will be reviewed and you'll have any additional testing that needs to be done before surgery.
- An intravenous line (IV) will be started here (or possibly in the holding room) to give you fluids.

Keeping You Safe

Keeping you safe is our top priority. We'll regularly ask you to identify yourself by stating your name and birth date and comparing it to your identification wristband. This ensures we provide the right treatment, tests and medications during your stay with us.

Your identification wristband contains a barcode. That barcode will be scanned before you're given any medications.

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 every patient encounter. If you have concerns that your health care provider hasn't washed their hands, speak up and ask them. Your physician will also order IV antibiotics before surgery and possibly after your surgery to help prevent surgical site infections.

We want to perform the right procedure, on the right patient, at the right site every time. We'll ask you to be involved in the process by identifying your surgical site and confirming the site that your surgeon marks.



Surgery and Recovery

Holding Room

- Approximately one hour before surgery, you'll be taken to the holding area and your family will be shown to the waiting area. You'll be assigned a number, which will be given to your family. In the waiting room, we have a tracking board on which your family can track your number through the surgical process.
- An anesthesiologist will meet with you and you may be given medication to help you relax.
- You'll receive antibiotics and fluids through your IV.
- You'll meet your surgical team and the surgeon will mark the correct surgical site.

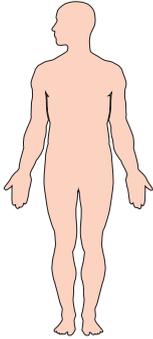
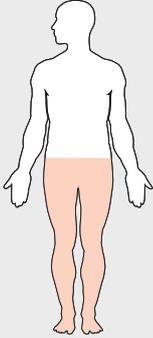
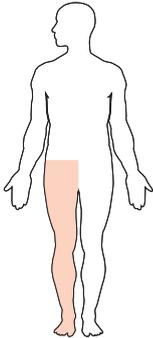
About Anesthesia

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 total joint replacement surgery.

Surgery and Recovery

Type	Definition	Advantages	Side Effects
<p>General Anesthesia</p> 	<p>General anesthesia acts primarily on the brain and nervous system. It not only eliminates sensations of pain during surgery, it allows you to sleep during the procedure. General anesthesia is administered by injection or by inhaling it into your respiratory system.</p>	<p>Allows patients to sleep through extensive surgical procedures</p>	<p>Side effects include a sore throat, headache, drowsiness, hoarseness, nausea and vomiting.</p>
<p>Regional Anesthesia (includes spinal/epidural anesthesia)</p> 	<p>Regional anesthesia involves the loss of sensation to a defined area of the body. Spinal/epidural anesthesia is a type of regional anesthesia. It's given by injecting a local anesthetic into the lower part of your back, between your vertebrae. Other medications, delivered through an IV, usually leave you with little or no memory of the surgery.</p>	<p>Regional anesthesia is less intrusive to the body than general anesthesia. It tends to be easier on your heart and lungs than general anesthesia and also has a lower risk for infection.</p>	<p>Side effects include minor headaches lasting for a few days after surgery. You may also have problems urinating. Rarely, patients will experience a headache that starts when they stand up, and goes away when they lie down. If this happens, lie flat and call your doctor immediately.</p>
<p>Nerve Block</p> 	<p>The nerve block is a regional anesthetic technique. It's given by injecting a local anesthetic into the operative leg. Once the nerve block is performed, the local anesthetic blocks transmission of signals that cause the sensation of pain. The block will last 24–48 hours.</p>	<p>It's a safe and effective way to provide excellent post-op pain control for your surgery. It also reduces the amount of narcotic pain medication that may be necessary to control pain. It can also lead to earlier ambulation and potentially an earlier discharge from the hospital.</p>	<p>Side effects include soreness around the injection site.</p>

Surgery and Recovery

Operating Room

- If you're having a total knee replacement, you'll be given a nerve block. This will numb the front of your knee and help with pain control after surgery.
- Surgery time varies. Your family will be updated while you're in surgery.
- After surgery, you'll go to the recovery room.

Recovery Room

- Your nurse will assess you frequently including your dressing, vital signs and symptoms.
- One of our goals is to decrease your pain. If you're having any pain, let the nurse know and you'll get pain medication.
- You'll be in the recovery room for approximately two hours or until your room is ready. Once you're discharged from the recovery room, you'll be taken to your patient unit. Your family will be notified of the room number.
- If discussed with your surgeon before surgery, you may be discharged home the same day as surgery. If this is planned, you'll be discharged once you meet your goals, which may include walking with physical therapy, pain control and drinking fluids.

Patient Unit

- When you get to your room, the nurse will assess you and monitor your progress throughout your stay.
- You'll continue to have an IV and will be encouraged to drink fluids. The IV fluids will be discontinued when you're able to drink enough.
- You may have a catheter in your bladder to monitor your urine.
- Sometimes a drain is placed in the wound after surgery to drain excess fluid. It'll be removed when there's decreased drainage.
- You'll also possibly have TED stockings on and/or sequential compression devices. These help prevent blood clots. It's also important to get out of bed. Call your nurse if you need help.
- Notify your nurse of any discomfort (rate on a scale of 0–10).
- Ask your team any questions you may have.

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'll ease as your body heals. Be sure to report any pain to your doctor or nurse.

As a patient, we expect that you'll:

- Help your health care professional in assessing your pain. Your nurses will ask you to rate your pain on the scale noted below in addition to assessing your level of sedation (sleepiness), vital signs, etc.
- Discuss pain relief options with your health care professional to develop a pain management plan.
- Ask for pain relief when pain first begins and before any activity that might cause you pain, such as physical therapy.
- Tell your health care professional about any worries you have regarding taking pain medications.

Measuring Your Pain

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

Standard Pain Scale

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
No pain		Mild pain		Moderate pain		Severe pain		Very severe pain		Worst possible pain

Modified Wong-Baker Faces

					
0	2	4	6	8	10
Very happy, no hurt	Hurts just a little bit	Hurts a little more	Hurts even more	Hurts a whole lot	Hurts as much as you can imagine

Surgery and Recovery

Pain Management Feedback

People experience pain in different ways; therefore, it's important that you give your health care team feedback on how you rate your pain before and after being medicated. Important points to remember include:

- Our goal is to reduce your pain and make it manageable so you can effectively work with physical and occupational therapy to regain some independence during your hospital stay.
- Be specific when describing the pain (throbbing, aching, shooting, cramping, etc.).
- You won't be totally pain-free after surgery and during the recovery period.

Pain Relief from Medication

Your doctor will choose a pain control to best suit your needs. Some patients will be given pain medication as needed, and others will be given pain medication at certain times during the day.

Easing Your Pain

We want to work with you to lessen or relieve any pain you feel after your joint 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.

Other Pain Management Treatments – Nonmedication Measures to Treat Pain

While medications may help control some of your pain, there are other methods you'll find helpful to assist in making you more relaxed and comfortable, including:

- **Ice:** Ice serves several purposes after surgery including reducing the swelling and helping to control pain. You can request an ice pack for icing near the surgical area, using it 20 minutes on and 20 minutes off.
- **Exercise:** To increase blood flow and prevent increased pain, swelling and blood clots, you'll be encouraged to do simple exercises such as ankle pumps (move ankles up and down in circles in both directions). You'll be walking with the physical therapy and nursing teams every day during your recovery, which will help decrease your pain. Remember to take slow, deep breaths as you change your position and get out of a bed or chair.

Surgery and Recovery

- **Progressive Relaxation:** Progressive relaxation involves tensing and relaxing every part of your body. Following progressive relaxation, imagine a pleasant or happy scene. Or, you can tune to our hospital channel on TV where you'll find pleasant scenes and music to help with your relaxation exercise. As the mind is occupied by the scene, stress levels diminish as your muscles and mind relax. This has been proven to greatly reduce pain.
- **Music:** The use of medication is often accompanied by unwanted side effects. Research has proven that music can be used to decrease the pain response. While studies found that medication was number one for pain reduction, music came in a solid second. It was found that music reduces intensity of pain as well as the amount of medication needed in acute postsurgical pain. It's noninvasive, so give it a try. Feel free to bring your favorite music with you and listen as you recover.
- **Pet Therapy:** Pet therapy has been shown to increase pain tolerance, reduce stress, lower blood pressure and bring a happy and relaxed feeling to those experiencing pain (see hospital pet visitation policy).
- **Distraction:** No, the pain isn't in your head. However, YOU are still in control. Focusing on your pain alone may make the sensation seem more intense. Instead, try to focus on something else, like reading a book or watching television.

Importance of Controlling Pain

One of the myths about pain is that it shouldn't be treated but experienced. However, pain offers no known benefits. If it isn't treated, pain can affect many different areas of your body, such as the heart, stomach and lungs. Sometimes patients try to deal with pain after surgery by taking short breaths, or by holding back coughs to prevent hurting their incision sites. These actions can cause postoperative complications such as pneumonia. Also, undertreated pain may result in increased fear, anxiety or lack of sleep.

Remember: Pain prevention and control bring short- and long-term relief and healing benefits. Be sure to report any pain to your doctor or nurse.

At-Home Pain Control

Know your pain control plan.

- Before leaving the hospital, you'll be given a prescription for pain medication. Have it filled. (If you're given a prescription by your doctor before surgery, have it filled before you come to the hospital.) Take it 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 medication or if it gets worse, call your doctor.
- When your pain lessens, you can 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 8 for more information on postsurgical nutrition.)

Surgery and Recovery

Medication Side Effects

The following chart contains information about the most common side effects of medication(s) you may be taking during your hospital stay. If you have questions or concerns, talk to your nurse.

Reason for Medication	Medication Names – Generic (Brand)	Possible Side Effects
Pain Relief	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fentanyl (Actiq®, Duragesic®, Sublimaze®) • Hydrocodone/Acetaminophen (Lortab®, Norco®, Vicodin®) • Hydromorphone (Dilaudid®) • Morphine (Kadian®, MS Contin®, Oramorph SR®, Roxanol®) • Oxycodone (Oxycontin®, Roxicodone®) • Oxycodone/Acetaminophen (Percocet®, Roxicet®, Tylox®) • Tramadol (Ultram®) • Other: 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dizziness/Drowsiness • Constipation • Queasiness/Vomiting • Rash • Confusion
Queasiness or Vomiting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Metoclopramide (Reglan®) • Promethazine (Phenergan®) • Ondansetron (Zofran®) • Scopolamine patch (Transderm-Scop®) • Prochlorperazine (Compazine®) • Other: 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Headache • Constipation • Tiredness/Drowsiness
Heartburn or Reflux	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Esomeprazole (Nexium®) • Famotidine (Pepcid®) • Lansoprazole (Prevacid®) • Omeprazole (Prilosec®) • Pantoprazole (Protonix®) • Ranitidine (Zantac®) • Other: 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Headache • Diarrhea
Lowers Cholesterol	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Atorvastatin (Lipitor®) • Lovastatin (Mevacor®) • Pravastatin (Pravachol®) • Rosuvastatin (Crestor®) • Simvastatin (Zocor®) • Other: 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upset stomach • Headache • Muscle pain (with muscle pain, tell nurse/physician right away)
Blood Thinner (to prevent or break down blood clots)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enoxaparin (Lovenox®) • Dabigatran (Pradaxa®) • Fondaparinux (Arixtra®) • Heparin • Rivaroxaban (Xarelto®) • Warfarin (Coumadin®, Jantoven®) • Other: 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk of bleeding
Stops Blood Clots from Forming	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aspirin • Clopidogrel (Plavix®) • Prasugrel (Effient®) • Ticagrelor (Brilinta®) • Other: 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upset stomach • Risk of bleeding
Heart Rhythm Problems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amiodarone (Cordarone®, Pacerone®) • Digoxin (Digitek®, Lanoxin®) • Propafenone (Rythmol®) • Flecainide (Tambocor®) • Other: 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dizziness • Headache

Surgery and Recovery

<p>Lowers Blood Pressure and Heart Rate</p>	<p><i>Calcium Channel Blockers</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diltiazem (Cardizem CD®, Cartia XT®, Dilacor XT®, Tiazac®) <p><i>Beta Blockers</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Atenolol (Tenormin®) • Carvedilol (Coreg®) • Metoprolol (Lopressor®, Toprol XL®) • Other: 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Headache • Dizziness/Drowsiness
<p>Lowers Blood Pressure</p>	<p><i>ACE Inhibitors/Angiotensin Receptor Blockers (ARB)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Benazepril (Lotensin®) • Captopril (Capoten®) • Enalapril (Vasotec®) • Irbesartan (Avapro®) • Lisinopril (Prinivil®, Zestril®) • Olmesartan (Benicar®) • Ramipril (Altace®) • Quinapril (Accupril®) • Valsartan (Diovan®) • Other: 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dizziness • Cough
<p>Antibiotic for Bacterial Infections</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amoxicillin/Clavulanate (Augmentin®) • Ertapenem (Invanz®) • Azithromycin (Zithromax®) • Levofloxacin (Levaquin®) • Cefazolin (Ancef®, Kefzol®) • Meropenem (Merrem®) • Ceftriaxone (Rocephin®) • Metronidazole (Flagyl®) • Cefuroxime (Ceftin®) • Piperacillin/Tazobactam (Zosyn®) • Ciprofloxacin (Cipro®) • Vancomycin (Vancocin®) • Clindamycin (Cleocin®) • Other: 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upset stomach • Diarrhea • Rash/Flushing • Headache
<p>Helps with Inflammation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Celecoxib (Celebrex®) • Dexamethasone (Decadron®) • Hydrocortisone (Cortef®, Hytone®, Solu-Cortef®) • Ibuprofen (Advil®, Motrin®) • Ketorolac (Toradol®) • Methylprednisolone (Depo-Medrol®, Medrol®, Solu-Medrol®) • Naproxen (Aleve®, Anaprox®, Naprosyn®) • Prednisone (Deltasone®) • Other: 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upset stomach • Sleeplessness
<p>Calms Nerves or Induces Sleep</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alprazolam (Xanax®) • Oxazepam (Serax®) • Diazepam (Valium®) • Temazepam (Restoril®) • Lorazepam (Ativan®) • Zolpidem (Ambien®) • Midazolam (Versed®) • Other: 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dizziness/Drowsiness • Headache • Confusion • Weakness
<p>Helps with Mood</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bupropion (Wellbutrin®, Wellbutrin XL®) • Citalopram (Celexa®) • Desvenlafaxine (Pristiq®) • Duloxetine (Cymbalta®) • Escitalopram (Lexapro®) • Fluoxetine (Prozac®, Sarafem®) • Fluvoxamine (Luvox CR®) • Paroxetine (Paxil®) • Sertraline (Zoloft®) • Venlafaxine (Effexor®) • Other: 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drowsiness • Headache • Upset stomach

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. Your individual care plan may vary from what's listed here.

Day of Surgery	Remainder of Stay
<p>Vital signs (blood pressure, heart rate, temperature) every four hours</p> <p>IV fluids will continue until you're tolerating oral intake.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Finish antibiotics from surgery <p>Tubes/Drains</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ If ordered, urinary catheter which stays in place to monitor urine output ■ Drain – may be placed near incision site; drain will be removed when you have decreased output <p>Therapy/Activity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Stand at bedside and walk with physical therapy, as tolerated ■ Reposition in bed <p>Diet</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Small sips of water and ice chips (immediately after surgery) ■ Clear liquids ■ Advance diet as tolerated <p>Pain Control</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Use the pain scale to rate your pain. ■ Pain medication may be administered through either IV or oral form. Oral pain medications will be administered as needed. ■ Apply ice (20 minutes on, off for an hour). <p>DVT Prevention (as ordered by doctor)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Sequential compression devices ■ TED stockings (white elastic socks, if ordered) <p>Discharge Planning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Some patients may be discharged to home the same day as surgery. Discuss this with your surgeon before surgery. 	<p>Tubes/Drains</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Urinary catheter will be removed the next morning, if ordered ■ Drain will be removed when you have decreased output <p>Therapy/Activity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Transfers, exercises and walking ■ Transfers, exercises, increase walking distance, stairs (if you have stairs at home) ■ Sit up in chair for meals ■ Goals to be met before discharge: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Walk 100-150 feet with assistive device – Get in and out of bed with little or no assistance – Perform at least the number of stairs you have in your house <p>Diet</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Eat and drink as ordered by your physician (as long as you have no nausea/vomiting). <p>Pain Control</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Use the pain scale to rate your pain. ■ Pain medication may be administered either through IV or oral form. Oral pain medications will be administered as needed. ■ Apply ice (20 minutes on, off for an hour). <p>DVT Prevention (as ordered by doctor)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Sequential compression devices ■ TED stockings (white elastic socks, if ordered) <p>Discharge Planning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Home health or rehab: Will see you the day after surgery after your initial therapy session ■ Durable medical equipment (walker, bedside commode, etc.): May be ordered and delivered to hospital room

Surgery and Recovery



A Word About Visitors

The day of your surgery, you'll spend time learning how to use your new joint. 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 verify the visiting hours on the orthopedic unit, and ask that your visitors respect them.

Discharge

- Arrange for transportation home before you're discharged. You won't be allowed to drive until you discuss it with your doctor on your first postoperative visit.
- On discharge day, your surgeon generally will see you in the morning and put orders in the computer for discharge. The surgeon will have you do your morning physical therapy session and the nurse will start completing your paperwork for discharge. Normal discharge time from the hospital is between 11am and 12pm. Specific arrangements for discharge can be made with your nurse on the day of discharge.
- The nurse will provide you with educational material for home care. Be sure to ask questions at this time.

Chapter Eight: Nutrition



Nutrition During Hospitalization

Preventing Constipation

Nutrition After Hospitalization

Nutrients to Help You Heal

Nutrition Supplements and Other Medications

Nutrition



Nutrition During Hospitalization

Soon after surgery, you'll be given small sips of water and a few ice chips. Once you can tolerate clear fluids without nausea and/or vomiting, you can begin to eat. A team member will discuss with you how to order your meals. Once you're allowed to eat solid foods, you can order anything from the menu that fits into the dietary plan ordered by your doctor. If nothing sounds good to you on our menu, we encourage family members to bring in your favorite food. It's important to eat foods high in protein and carbohydrates to promote the healing process.

Preventing Constipation

Before surgery, during your hospitalization and postoperatively, you'll be prone to constipation. The first way to prevent constipation is to eat a high-fiber diet and drink at least six 8 oz. glasses of water every day. Walking is an important part of your recovery and will also help you avoid constipation. During hospitalization, you'll be given stool softeners daily. Again, it's important to continue your fluid intake to help the stool softeners work effectively. We also advise that you continue to take stool softeners following your discharge (you can buy these over the counter) until you're weaned off the narcotics.

Nutrition

Preventing Constipation After Orthopedic Surgery

You've just had orthopedic surgery and may have been given pain medication. One side effect of pain medication is **constipation**. To reduce long-term constipation risks, follow these instructions:

Take docusate-senna once daily at bedtime after surgery:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Docusate-senna (Peri-colace/Senna Plus/Senexon-S/Senna-S/Dok-Plus) is a stool softener and bowel stimulant that should help you have regular bowel movements while taking pain medication.■ If you have loose stools, stop taking this medication.■ You can find docusate-senna at your local pharmacy.
If no bowel movement by your third day after surgery:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Add milk of magnesia (30mL) twice daily.■ You can find milk of magnesia at your local pharmacy.■ Keep taking the docusate-senna once daily at bedtime.
If no bowel movement by your fourth day after surgery:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Stop taking milk of magnesia.■ Add a Dulcolax laxative 10mg suppository once daily to your medication regimen. You can find these suppositories at your local pharmacy.■ Keep taking the docusate-senna once daily at bedtime.
If no bowel movement by your fifth day after surgery:	Contact your surgeon or primary care physician.

Nutrition

Nutrition After Hospitalization

After you leave the hospital, your diet will continue to be one of the most important factors in the healing process.

What You Need to Know About Nutrition

“MyPlate” is based on the 2020 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’s 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.

Nutrition

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

■ 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 for calcium intake include:

- Drinking too many soft drinks may keep your body from using the calcium found in foods.
- You can meet your daily 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

Nutrition Supplements and Other Medications

Preventing Excessive Bleeding

There are medications and herbal supplements that you need to **AVOID** for at least one week before surgery and one week after surgery, until your surgeon approves their use.

These medications/supplements may cause excessive bleeding before surgery and may interact with the blood thinner you'll be prescribed after surgery.

Medications (classified as nonsteroidal, anti-inflammatory drugs) to avoid include:

- Advil®
- Aleve®
- Anacin®
- Aspirin®
- Feldene®
- Daypro®
- Ibuprofen
- Indocin®
- Mobic®
- Motrin®
- Naprosyn®
- Voltaren®
- Certain cold medications

Check with your pharmacist if you have any questions about whether or not a medication includes nonsteroidal, anti-inflammatory drugs, and follow any directions from your surgeon about medications to avoid.

Also, avoid all herbal supplements one week before surgery, including green tea, fish oil, Omega-3 supplements, etc.

Chapter Nine:

Back at Home



Instructions for Going Home After Surgery

My Total Joint Zone Guide

When to Notify Your Physician

Discharge Equipment

Where to Find Equipment

Publix Pharmacy

Discharge Checklist

My Medical Questions

Notes

A Final Note

Back at Home

Instructions for Going Home After Surgery

Dressings

Gauze dressings: Leave these dressings in place—a home health care professional will help you with your dressing changes.

Antimicrobial: Your dressing will stay in place depending on your surgeon's orders. A member of your care team will help remove your dressing when appropriate.

Don't apply any lotions, creams or ointments to the incision site.

Bathing/Showering

Gauze dressings: Shower as instructed by your physician.

Antimicrobial: You can get the dressing wet (no tub baths, hot tubs or swimming). Pat the dressing dry after you shower.

Be careful not to slip. Use a rubber mat in the shower or bathtub. You may need a shower chair or tub transfer bench until your balance and standing tolerance improve.

Rest Periods

Plan several times during the day to lie down and rest. At first, you may need two to three rest periods each day. As you recover, you'll need fewer rest periods and your activity tolerance will increase.

Activity Restrictions

Generally a walker is necessary for a short period of time after leaving the hospital. Your physical therapist will gradually progress you from a walker to a cane. Limit activities that require balance (for example, vacuuming or reaching into high cupboards or shelves) until you're able to walk without a cane. Don't drive until your surgeon says you can do so. You must have good control over your operative leg and be off narcotic pain medication before you'll be allowed to drive.

Lifting, Bending and Carrying

After surgery, you'll have to treat your body very gently for a while. 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. (You'll find more information on a reacher in Chapter 9.)
- 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 reaching for anything that's far away from you.
- Try using a rolling kitchen cart to carry or move heavy or hot items.

Back at Home

Pain

It's common to have some mild to moderate discomfort at home, especially after increased or prolonged activity. You'll go home with pain medication. If pain isn't relieved by rest and pain medications, notify your surgeon. Pain medications may cause constipation. To prevent constipation, we suggest you take an over-the-counter stool softener, such as Senokot or Colace. Refer to the constipation guideline on page 53.

Blood Clot Prevention

After surgery, your surgeon will prescribe a blood-thinning medication to help decrease your risk of developing a blood clot. It's important that you take this medication as prescribed. If you have any questions about this medication, contact your orthopedic surgeon. You may also be given compression stockings to help with blood flow in your legs. Wear these stockings as directed.

Swelling

You may notice increased swelling in your leg or foot after you've been sitting or standing for long periods. Try to avoid this by staying active and planning rest periods. Call your doctor if this continues to be a problem.

Don't sit for prolonged periods of time. Get up after 45–60 minutes and move around. Elevate your legs above your heart twice a day for 30 minutes. Apply ice to the incision four times a day for 30 minutes at a time. Always have a towel/cloth between the ice pack and your incision. The best times to ice are after your therapy session or after performing exercises provided by the therapist.

Home Care

The home care agency you've chosen will call you by 12pm the day after you're discharged from the hospital to inform you when they'll be at your house. A physical therapist will come to your house two to three times a week to review exercises, encourage movement and help with dressing changes.

Dental Protocol

After your joint replacement surgery, you may be required to take an antibiotic one hour before your dental appointments. Talk to your surgeon and dentist for more information.

Sexual Relations

After surgery, sexual relations can be resumed when you've healed and feel more comfortable, usually around four to six weeks. Discuss resuming sexual relations with your surgeon at your postoperative follow-up appointment.

Return Appointments

You may be given a return appointment to see your surgeon when you go home. If you have any questions or problems before your return appointment, call your surgeon's office.

To help prevent hospital revisits, review the Total Joint Zone Guide on the next page and contact your surgeon if you have any questions or concerns.

Back at Home

If your doctor ordered home care and you have questions, call your home care company: _____

Every day you should:

- Walk often throughout the day with periods of rest
- Take medications as prescribed
- Eat well-balanced meals

GREEN ZONE

Great control – These are your goals:

- Your incision is clean and dry.
- You're able to walk short distances.
- Pain is controlled with use of pain medications, if needed.

YELLOW ZONE

Caution – Call your orthopedic surgeon if:

- You're experiencing an increase in pain and swelling, or have drainage and odor around the incision site
- You have a new increase in pain while walking or you're unable to walk
- There's increased pain, swelling or warmth around the incision site or in either leg

ORANGE ZONE

Alert – Call your primary care physician if you have:

- A fever higher than 100°F for more than 24 hours
- Difficulty having a bowel movement
- Prolonged nausea or lack of appetite
- Pain or difficulty while urinating
- Abdominal pain
- Change in mood

RED ZONE

Emergency – Call 911 or go to an emergency room if you have:

- Shortness of breath
- Rapid heart rate
- Sudden confusion
- Coughing up blood
- Chest pain

If you have questions or concerns after your surgery, call the numbers below. If you're experiencing a medical emergency, call 911 or go to an emergency room.

Orthopedic surgeon: _____ Phone: _____

Orthopedic nurse navigator: _____ Phone: _____

Home health care provider: _____ Phone: _____

Back at Home

When to Notify Your Physician

Notify your physician if:

- Your involved leg is cool to the touch, a dusky color, grows numb or tingles
- You develop a temperature of 100° F for more than 24 hours and start experiencing chills
- Your incision starts draining or is swollen, warm, red and painful
- You have new or increased pain that isn't relieved by medication, rest or cold therapy
- You develop burning or urgency when urinating, or if your urine has a foul odor
- You develop constipation that isn't relieved with the use of laxatives

If you develop pain in your chest or shortness of breath, this is a medical emergency. Call 911 immediately.

Back at Home

Discharge Equipment

To ensure a safe recovery after joint replacement surgery, you may need to use some special equipment.

- **A walking aid:** Most patients use a two-wheel rolling walker during recovery and may transition to a cane, if needed.
- **A 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 you'll need after surgery. Remember, you don't want to sit on anything low like a sofa or a toilet.

Insurance may cover the purchase of a walker and/or commode, but it's important to verify your insurance benefits, as some plans have out-of-pocket costs.

Where to Find Equipment

If you want to buy a walker or commode before your surgery, here's where you may find these items:

- Call local drugstores to see what selections of health equipment they carry.
- Gently used equipment may be available at your local thrift store.
- Online stores such as Amazon carry a large selection of medical equipment that can be delivered to your home.

BayCare may be able to help with your equipment needs and will coordinate with your physician and your insurance company when you're discharged so you have all the appropriate equipment to make a safe recovery.



Back at Home

Your therapist may recommend the following adaptive equipment for safety and ease during self-care tasks.



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



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 the 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.



A dressing stick can be helpful to dress the lower body, eliminating the need to bend.

The five items above come in a kit which is available to purchase at your hospital.

Back at Home

Publix Pharmacy

When it's time to leave the hospital, most people think about getting home. The last thing they want to do is wait at a pharmacy for prescriptions to be filled. Now you can have your prescriptions filled at the Publix Pharmacy and get the personalized care you deserve.

Publix Pharmacy services include:

- Walk-in service
- Inpatient bedside delivery

Ask your nurse for additional information about Publix Pharmacy services. If you're interested in using this service, bring a form of payment to the hospital for prescription costs.

Discharge Checklist

- ___ Rolling walker
- ___ Bedside commode (*if needed*)
- ___ CPM (knee patients only, if ordered by your physician)
- ___ Hip kit/Reacher (*if needed*)
- ___ Medications
- ___ Home care/Rehab arranged

Back at Home



A Final Note

The total joint replacement program wants to ease your pain and help you regain your independence. Following the instructions in this book will help make sure that you heal as fully as possible, as quickly as possible. If you have any questions, talk to your doctor or nurse. They'll be happy to help you.



[BayCare.org/Orthopedics](https://www.baycare.org/Orthopedics)