



## POST-OPERATIVE INSTRUCTIONS PROCEDURE: CARPAL TUNNEL RELEASE

- Pain Medication: You will be given a prescription for pain medication to be taken after surgery. This should be filled and ready for use when you return home from the surgery center/hospital. You should not drive, operate heavy machinery or participate in activities that require concentration while taking narcotic pain medications such as Percocet, Oxycodone, Oxycontin, Norco, Vicodin, or Tylenol with Codeine. You should take an over the counter stool softener while taking narcotic pain medications to prevent constipation.
- Dressings: Leave the dressing/splint intact until you return for your post-operative visit. Keep incision dry and clean until sutures are removed at your first post-op visit. Do not get the incisions or splint wet until you have been seen by your surgeon and given approval for showering. You will not be able to soak the incision in a bath, pool, or body of water for 4 weeks.
- Cold Therapy: Always make sure to apply a barrier between the cold pad and your skin. Apply ice to surgical area in a waterproof bag for 30 minutes each hour you are awake.
- Post-Operative Appointment: Please make a post-operative appointment to see your surgeon 10-14 days following surgery.
- Prescription Refill Protocol: You **MUST** give your physician **48 hours** notice for any medication refill. Many medications require a written prescription and cannot be called into a pharmacy. Prescriptions **will not** be filled over the weekend.
- When to call your surgeon:
  - Complications after surgery are fortunately very rare. Call the office if you have any of the following symptoms:
    - Persistent fever >101, chills
    - Increasing pain at the surgical site
    - New onset numbness or tingling
    - Hives or new rashes
    - Shortness of breath or chest pain
    - Persistent nausea/vomiting
    - Drainage from your incision lasting >5 days