



POST-OPERATIVE INSTRUCTIONS
PROCEDURE: OPEN REPAIR OF LATERAL COLLATERAL
LIGAMENT OF THE ELBOW/LATERAL EPICONDYLITIS
TREATMENT

- **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 hospital/surgery center. You should not drive, operate heavy machinery or participate in activities that require concentration while taking narcotic pain medications such as Percocet, Oxycodone, 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.
- **Activity:** Gentle elbow range of motion to tolerance. Use sling. No lifting, pushing or pulling with the surgical arm.
- **Flying:** You should not do any flying for two weeks following surgery.
- **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