



PATIENT NAME:

DOB:

PHARMACY:

### POSTOPERATIVE INSTRUCTIONS

## PROCEDURE: OPEN REPAIR OF LATERAL COLLATERAL LIGAMENT OF ELBOW/LATERAL EPICONDYLITIS TREATMENT

NEXT APPOINTMENT:

LOCATION:

### PAIN MEDICATION

You will be given a prescription for pain medication after surgery. This should be filled and ready for use when you return home from surgery. 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.

### DRESSING

Leave the dressing intact until you return for your postoperative appointment. Keep dressing clean and dry. **DO NOT** get the incision(s) or dressings wet. You will not be able to soak the incision(s) for a **MINIMUM OF 4 WEEKS** after surgery.

### BRACE

You were placed in an elbow brace after surgery. This brace should be worn **AT ALL TIMES**, including when sleeping. It **MUST BE** locked in 90° of elbow flexion **AT ALL TIMES**. **DO NOT** get brace wet. Brace can be removed for bathing and exercises **ONLY**.

### WEIGHTBEARING STATUS

You will be **NONWEIGHTBEARING** on your operative arm. **DO NOT** attempt to lift or carry anything with the operative arm. Elevate the operative arm with fingers pointing towards the ceiling whenever possible to decrease hand/finger swelling.

### COLD THERAPY MACHINE

If provided, begin using your cold therapy machine after surgery. We recommend use at least 3 times per day, following the manufacturers instructions for setup and utilization of water and ice, for **NO LONGER THAN 45 MINUTES** per treatment. **ALWAYS** make sure to apply a barrier between the cooling pad and your skin. If you have not been provided with a cold therapy machine, apply ice to the surgical area in a waterproof bag for **NO LONGER THAN 30 MINUTES** per treatment.

### PAIN MEDICATION REFILL PROTOCOL

You **MUST** give your physician **48 HOURS** notice for any medication refill. Many medications require your surgeon to send the medication electronically and cannot be called into the pharmacy. Prescriptions **WILL NOT** be filled over the weekend. A prescription for the same medication you have been taking after surgery **IS NOT GUARANTEED**.

### WHEN TO CALL YOUR SURGEON

Complications after surgery are fortunately very rare. Please contact our office if you have any of the following symptoms:

- >> Persistent fever >101°F, 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

