Alberta Health Services
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Caring for Yourself after a Hip or Knee Replacement

Last Name (Legal)		First Name (Legal)		ame (Legal)
Preferred Name	□ Last □ First		DOB (dd-Mon-yyyy)	
PHN	ULI 🗆 Same as PHN		HN	MRN
Administrative Gender □ Male □ Female □ Non-binary/prefer not to disclose (X) □ Unknown				

Follow these instructions at home.

If you have any questions or concerns, call your case manager or surgeon.

Site							
Your staples will be taken out at the	Clinic on (dd-Mon-yyyy)						
If you have questions or concerns, call your case manager or surgeon							
Wound Care (specify)							
Shower (no baths), no soap, lotion or cream on the incision							
Other follow-up appointments (for example: Home Care, Mobile Lab, physiotherapy, medical tests)							
Your weight bearing status is							
Call 911 if you have sudden chest pain or trouble breathing.							
 When to call your case manager: For more pain, redness, swelling, or tenderness in your lower leg, and if lying down for at least 20 minutes doesn't help. For an incision that becomes red, hard, hot, swollen, or is draining. For chills and a fever above 38.5 °C (101.3 °F). For a new, sudden pain or less range of motion in your hip. For blood in your stool, urine, or the fluid you cough up. For more bruising that doesn't seem to be going away after 3 weeks. (Bruising is normal above and below the incision for up to 3 weeks after surgery). If you still have to take strong pain medicine 6 weeks after surgery. 		 When to call your family doctor: If you have diarrhea or constipation that doesn't get better after 3 days. If your prescription medicine changed after surgery For medical concerns not related to your surgery. 					
If you can't reach your case manager or surgeon, call your family doctor, or call Health Link at 811.							
Medication Reconciliation Done Prescription		Yes, give	·				
	Dose		How often				
	ose	How ofte	n				
If you need to, you can take your pain medicine today							
Blood Thinner (Name)	Dose		low often				
Blood Thinner (Name)	Dose	F	low often				
Other medicine (specify)							
The above instructions have been explained to me							
Patient Signature	Or Legal Rep	presentative (sp	pecify)				
Staff Signature and Designation			Date (dd-Mon-yyyy)				

Activity and Precautions

- You **must** use your walker or crutches, bathroom equipment, and dressing aids until your first wound assessment. Follow the activity guidelines your healthcare team gave you.
- Put only as much weight on your operated leg as your doctor or healthcare team told you.
- Take your pain medicine 30 to 45 minutes before you do your exercises.
- Do the exercises in your booklet When You're Having a Hip or Knee Replacement.
- To help with swelling, raise your operated leg 2 to 3 times a day for 45 minutes and regularly ice your operated leg (don't leave the ice pack in one place for more than 20 minutes).
- You need both activity and rest to recover. Start by taking short walks, and then gradually increase how far you walk. Ask someone to come with you the first few times.
- Stop what you're doing and rest when you're tired. It's better to do shorter activities more often, than do one long activity.
- Your healthcare team will tell you if you need follow-up physiotherapy appointments.

Your booklet *When You're Having a Hip or Knee Replacement* has more about sports and leisure activities, driving, sexual activity, travelling, and going back to work.

DO NOT do these HIP movements after a hip replacement until your surgeon says you can:					
 bend your hip more than 90 degrees 	 lift and push objects that weigh more than 				
cross your legs	11 kg (25 lbs)				
• bring your knee higher than your hip when you sit	exercises that involve jumping, twisting, quick stops and starts, or other movements that put				
 reach down for things on the floor 					
• twist, squat, or kneel	sudden force on your hip				
DO NOT do these KNEE movements after a knee replacement until your surgeon says you can:					
twist or pivot on your leg	contact sports				
squat or kneel	 any activities or exercises that would put 				
 lift and/or push things that weigh more than 11 kg (25 lbs) 	sudden force on your knee by quick stops and starts, twisting, jarring, or jumping				

Diet

- Eat more fibre like bran cereals, whole grains, fruits, and vegetables including prunes, to help with any constipation from your pain medicine.
- Drink enough fluids to keep your urine clear or pale yellow.
- Eat a well-balanced diet to help your incision heal.

Other Information

- Tell your dentist and other doctors that care for you that you had your hip or knee replaced. You may need antibiotics before dental or other medical work to reduce the risk of an infection spreading to your new joint.
- Expect to use less pain medicine every day. Stop your pain medicine as soon as you can meet your therapy goals without it.

For 24-hour general health information or nurse advice, call Health Link at 811 in Alberta, or 1-866-408-LINK (5465) toll-free if outside Alberta.