

# Hip Replacement Guidebook



**PANORAMA**  
Orthopedics & Spine Center



# Welcome

## Using this Guidebook

**Communication** is essential in the success of your recovery. Preparation, education and your involvement are key in our team-based approach. We believe you play a key role alongside our team in achieving a successful recovery. Our goal is to involve and support you during each step of this process.

**Please read EVERY page thoroughly.** Inside this guidebook we will explain what you can expect every step of the way so you feel comfortable, informed and prepared. There are several pre-surgical checklists to ensure you and your support team know what you need to do to be prepared for your upcoming surgery. The “Table of Contents” provides a quick reference to include important contact phone numbers for your care team. Be sure to review “Frequently Asked Questions” for additional insights.

**Please remember, this is just a guide.** Your care team may modify any of these recommendations based on your unique circumstances. Always use their recommendations first and please ask questions if anything is unclear.

# Table Of Contents

Hip Replacement .....	6
Brief Overview	
Important Phone Numbers .....	7
Facility Locations and Contact Information .....	8
Surgery Scheduling and Requirements .....	9
Pre-Operative Checklist .....	10
45 Days Before Surgery .....	10
30 Days Before Surgery .....	11
7 Days Before Surgery .....	12
Night Before Surgery .....	13
Day of Surgery .....	13
Preparing Your Home .....	14
Building Your Recovery Team .....	15
Hip Physical Therapy Exercises .....	16
Medications To Stop Before Surgery .....	20
Day Of Surgery Medication Recommendations .....	23
What To Expect The Day Of Surgery .....	24
Preparing for Discharge .....	25
What To Expect After Surgery .....	26
Medications After Surgery .....	28
Post-Surgical Office Visits .....	30
Financial Information .....	31
FAQ's .....	32
Appendix .....	38
Notes .....	42

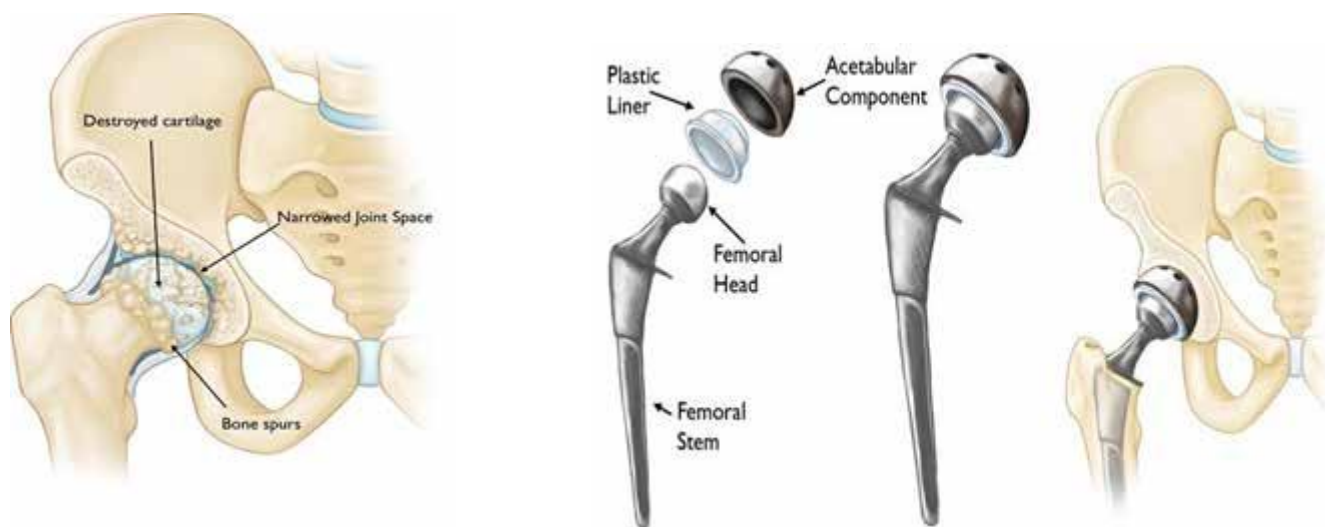
# Hip Replacement: Brief Overview

Significant destruction of the joint cartilage in your hip may be a result of arthritis, trauma or even childhood hip disease. This damage can cause stiffness and pain that limits your ability to walk or perform basic activities, such as putting on your shoes and socks.

Your surgeon may recommend hip replacement surgery if other strategies to improve your hip pain and function are ineffective. While this problem has seriously impacted your life, a joint replacement can offer significant pain relief, improve function, and enhance your overall quality of life. Each year, more than one million joint replacement surgeries are performed in the United States. Your decision to undergo elective joint replacement surgery is an important step to improve your quality of life and regain your mobility.

The hip is a ball-and-socket joint. The socket is formed by the acetabulum and the ball is the femoral head, which is the upper end of the femur bone. These joint surfaces are covered with a smooth tissue(cartilage) that creates a cushion for the joint to move easily. In a hip replacement surgery, the damaged bone and cartilage are removed and replaced with prosthetic components. The femoral head is removed and replaced with a ball attached to a stem that fits into your thigh bone. The damaged cartilage surface of the acetabulum is removed and replaced with a metal socket. A plastic or ceramic spacer is inserted between the new ball and the socket to allow for smooth movement. Your surgeon will determine the size, type and approach used to ensure optimal fit.

To find an animation from the American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons:  
<https://orthoinfo.aaos.org/en/treatment/total-hip-replacement/>



# Important Phone Numbers

## Panorama Ortho 303.233.1223

Please refer to the front cover insert for your surgery team's contact information.

Department	Reasons to Call	Contact Information
Triage (7am-5pm M-F) *Excluding Holidays	<input type="checkbox"/> Medical questions or concerns that require immediate attention	Call: 303-233-1223 Option 2 To be connected to Clinical Care Team
Pharmacy Questions (7am-5pm M-F) *Excluding Holidays	<input type="checkbox"/> Refills for Prescriptions <input type="checkbox"/> New Prescriptions <input type="checkbox"/> Questions about medications	Call: 720-497-6662 (Requests after 3pm are handled the next business day)
Appointment Scheduling (9am-5pm M-F) *Excluding Holidays	<input type="checkbox"/> Schedule follow up appointments and office visits	Call: 303-233-1223 Option 2, then option 1
Panorama Physical Therapy (8am-6pm M-F)	<input type="checkbox"/> Schedule physical therapy appointments <input type="checkbox"/> Questions or concerns for your therapist	Central Scheduling 303-274-7330
Navigation Central <b>(AFTER HOURS)</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> 24 hour call service <input type="checkbox"/> Live Emergency Medical Technicians to help with all questions and urgent situations; you will get to talk directly to a person	Call: 303-233-1223 To connect to our after hours Clinical Care Team
Non-medical Questions	<input type="checkbox"/> Billing <input type="checkbox"/> Workers Compensation <input type="checkbox"/> Privacy Office	Call: 303-233-1223 Option 2 then 3 (For Billing)

# Facility Locations and Contact Information

## **OrthoColorado Hospital**

11650 W. 2nd Place

Lakewood, CO 80228

720-321-5061 Pre-operative Testing Questions

[www.orthocolorado.org/education](http://www.orthocolorado.org/education) to view pre-operative education videos

## **St. Anthony Hospital**

11600 W. 2nd Place

Lakewood, CO 80228

Main Line 720-321-0000

[www.centura.org/locations/st-anthony-hospital.org](http://www.centura.org/locations/st-anthony-hospital.org)

## **Littleton Adventist Hospital**

7700 S. Broadway

Littleton, CO 80122

303-738-2750 Pre-operative Testing Questions

[www.centura.org/locations/littleton-adventist-hospital](http://www.centura.org/locations/littleton-adventist-hospital)

## **St. Anthony North Hospital**

14300 Orchard Parkway

Westminster, CO 80023

720-627-3028 Pre-operative Testing Questions

[www.centura.org/locations/st-anthony-north-health-campus.org](http://www.centura.org/locations/st-anthony-north-health-campus.org)

## **Centennial Hospital**

14200 E Arapahoe Road

Centennial, CO 80112

303-269-3493 Pre-operative Testing Questions

[www.healthonecares.com/campaigns/centennial-medical-center.org](http://www.healthonecares.com/campaigns/centennial-medical-center.org)

## **South Denver Surgery Center**

300E. Mineral Ave., Suite 9

Littleton, CO 80122

720-360-3400

[www.southdenversc.com](http://www.southdenversc.com)

## **The Orthopedic Surgery Center**

14190 Orchard Parkway Suite 100

Westminster, Colorado, 80033

Phone: (720) 856-0008

Fax: (303) 451-0275

# Surgery Scheduling and Requirements

1. Finalize with your surgeon that you wish to proceed with hip replacement surgery.
2. Make sure your surgical history is up to date with your surgeon.
3. You will be contacted by a surgery scheduler to schedule your surgery.
4. If you would like financial guidance or information about what your insurance plan will cover, please refer to detailed financial information on **page 31** for answers to questions regarding billing and insurance.
5. Prior to your scheduled surgery, we will **REQUIRE** medical clearance from your primary medical provider (if your procedure is scheduled at Littleton Hospital, this process can be completed at their Pre-admission Testing Clinic). Medical clearance typically includes a physical examination, blood work, EKG, and any other tests deemed necessary by your provider. Surgery cannot proceed without prior clearance! Please schedule this as soon as you know your surgery date. If you do not have a primary medical provider, please let us know and we will arrange medical clearance for you.
6. Your surgical facility will provide education specific to your upcoming surgery. We ask you to have a family or friend support person review that education with you, take you home from the surgical facility, and assist you while recovering at home. You should prepare support at home for at least 72 hours after surgery while you make your initial recovery.
7. We ask you to have a family or friend support person that can attend the class with you, take you home from the surgical facility, and assist you while recovering at home. You should prepare support at home for 72 hours after surgery while you make your initial recovery.



# Pre-Operative Checklist

## 45 Days Before Surgery

- Schedule your medical clearance appointment with your primary care provider **ASAP**. If your procedure is scheduled at Littleton Hospital you can complete this process at their Pre-admission Testing Clinic. Failure to complete medical clearance is a common cause for surgery delay and cancellation.
- Please anticipate seeing any specialist who has provided care to you in the past 12 months (i.e. cardiology, pulmonology).
- Make a discharge plan to include a family or friend support person that can attend the class with you, take you home from the surgical facility and assist you while recovering at home.
- Review the pre-surgical educational materials provided by your facility. Please have your support person plan to review educational materials with you.



## 30 Days Before Surgery

- Begin pre-operative exercises listed on **page 16** of this book as this will help with your strength after surgery.
- Arrange work and your social calendar to accommodate recovery time. Your surgeon and care team will let you know when you can return to work and other activities after surgery. Please email any disability or FMLA paperwork to the physician communication email box at least 2 weeks prior to your surgery.
- Please contact your surgical facility about how to obtain adaptive equipment (walker/cane) to assist in your recovery.
- Consider purchasing a Cold Therapy Unit. These are available for purchase at our DME stores (303.233.1223 ext 1600). If your surgery is scheduled at St. Anthony North, please contact the hospital for information about obtaining a Cold therapy Unit.
- Dental Appointments or major dental work must be completed 30 days prior to your surgery. Non-urgent dental work should be postponed 3 months following surgery.  
Please contact your surgeon or care team if you are having any minor medical procedures or urgent dental procedures 30 days prior to your surgery. Avoid joint injections 3 months prior to joint replacement surgery.
- Review infection prevention instructions (See instructions on **page 39.**) Patients are to wash with an antiseptic solution the night before surgery. This is available for purchase at the Panorama DME store. (303-233-1223 ext. 1600).
- If you smoke, you should attempt to stop smoking before surgery. Tobacco containing products can increase your risk of infection and complications after surgery. If you are unable to stop smoking, please ABSTAIN for 24 hours before your surgery and at least 48 hours after surgery. All surgical facilities are non-smoking facilities. If you need help with smoking cessation, please visit [www.coquitline.org](http://www.coquitline.org) or call 1-800-QUIT-NOW.

# Pre-Operative Checklist

## 7 Days Before Surgery

- Contact your surgeon if there is a change in your medical condition (cold, infection, fever, cuts/scrapes) as it may be necessary to reschedule your surgery.
- Please review **page 20** for detailed medication recommendations by your surgeon and primary medical provider before your surgery.
- You will receive a call from the surgical facility PATT department (preadmission testing and teaching) prior to your surgery. These nurses will review your medical history, surgical history and your current list of all medications, vitamins and supplements. They will also give you individualized medication instructions. Prior to your call, please have a list of all medications, vitamins and supplements ready.
- You will receive a call from the surgical facility surgery scheduler 24-48 hours prior to your surgery with the time of your surgery.
- Please refrain from shaving your legs 7 days prior to your surgery date to avoid cuts or nicks.
- Please review **page 14** for instructions to ensure a safe home environment prior to your return home. If you have pets, please arrange for a family or friend to assist in caring for them for a few days after you return home.
- Stay well hydrated by drinking water and maintain a well balanced diet to include fiber rich foods such as fruits and vegetables. This will additionally help to prevent constipation after surgery. Please review **page 38** for a reference to improve your nutrition and prepare your body for surgery.
- Confirm your first post-operative appointment date and time.

## Night Before Surgery

- **PLEASE** shower using Chlorhexidine (Hibiclens) to help prevent infection. Please see **page 39** for detailed instructions. Do not use any lotions, creams or deodorant on your skin prior to surgery.
- **PLEASE** follow guidelines regarding when to stop food or drink prior to your surgery. This includes gum chewing, mints, and all tobacco products. Please be advised that if these guidelines are not followed your surgery will be cancelled.

## Day of Surgery

- Only take the medications you have been instructed to take the day of surgery with a small sip of water. Please see **page 23** for medication instructions by your surgeon and your primary medical provider.
- Do not apply lotions, deodorants or perfumes.
- Please bring with you eyeglasses, hearing aids, dentures or any device needed to aid in your care. If you have a Cold Therapy Unit (ice machine) please bring it with you. Please leave jewelry or valuables at home.
- Wear loose fitting, comfortable clothes such as shorts, sweats and a top for returning home. Please wear shoes with a non-skid sole or a closed heel for walking after surgery.
- Please bring your picture ID, insurance card and a current list of medications, vitamins and supplements.
- Arrive at the surgical facility as instructed to check in and allow for traffic and inclement weather that could delay your arrival time.

# Preparing Your Home

To ensure a safe environment, it is important to take specific measures to prepare your home for your post-op return. Use the checklist below as a helpful resource.

- Clean up and declutter your house allowing for walking paths large enough for you to pass with a walker. This is especially important on your path from where you will spend most of your time and the bathroom.
- Apply adhesive strips to bottom of bathtub or shower area. Wet floors are a high fall risk.
- Shop for groceries and stock up with nutritious food for your recovery.
- Prepare and freeze meals in single serving containers.
- Identify any uneven surfaces inside and outside your home. These are trip hazards. If a trip hazard can be removed, like a throw rug, a long bed skirt, or an electrical cord, please do so.
- Install or tighten any loose railings on stairways.
- Install nightlights in bathrooms, bedrooms and hallways and replace light bulbs.
- Arrange items in kitchen, bathroom and bedroom to be easily accessible without having to lift or bend, including your phone and a phone charger.
- Keep pets in another room until you are safely settled in your home. Pets and small children can be trip hazards.
- Tend to any household chores like laundry and yard work.
- Put clean linens on your bed and have another set clean and ready.
- If you have purchased an ice machine, also purchase 8-12 pre-frozen water bottles 16 ounces or smaller to use in your ice machine. Remove the labels from bottles to prevent clogging the filter and store them in the freezer.

# Building Your Recovery Team

**Discharge planning is a very important step of preparing for a same-day hip surgery. Our goal is to return you to your home environment the day of your surgery.** You will be most comfortable and more active in your home setting, which will lead to your optimal recovery.

As a candidate for a same-day hip replacement, we suggest a family or friend to be with you for the first 72 hours after discharge from the surgical facility. This may vary depending on your personalized needs. Although you will be independent, having someone to help with medication administration, meal preparation, and daily chores will ensure your needs are met. As your family and friends play a pivotal role in your surgical process, we would like you to involve them throughout the preparation, surgery and recovery from your hip replacement. Your support person is encouraged to participate in all facets of the surgical process to include joint class, day of surgery process, and surgeon/physician assistant visits.

# Hip Physical Therapy Exercises

Strong, healthy individuals recover significantly faster. You are encouraged to walk at least 20 mins, 3 times per week to increase exercise activity prior to surgery. Every little bit of strength will help during your postsurgical recovery. Start practicing the exercises below twice a day for at least four weeks before your surgery.

## LOWER EXTREMITY STRETCHING

These stretches are safe to perform prior to surgery in a pain-free range.



### HAMSTRING STRETCH WITH TOWEL/STRAP

While lying down on your back, hook a towel or strap under your foot and draw up your leg until a stretch is felt along the backside of your leg. Ensure opposite knee is bent and that your knee on the leg being stretched is in a straightened position.

3 sets, 30 second hold, 1-2x/day



### SINGLE KNEE TO CHEST STRETCH

While lying on your back, hold your knee and gently pull it up towards your chest. Keep opposite knee bent.

3 sets, 30 second hold, 1-2x/day



### PIRIFORMIS STRETCH

While lying on your back, cross your leg as shown and pull your leg towards your chest as shown.

3 sets, 30 second hold, 1-2x/day



### CALF STRETCH WITH TOWEL – GASTROCNEMIUS

*\* Not to be performed past neutral for Achilles Repairs x6 weeks*

While in a seated position, place a towel around the ball of your foot and pull your ankle back until a stretch is felt on your calf area. Keep your knee in a straightened position during the stretch.

3 sets, 30 second hold, 1-2x/day

## Range of Motion Exercises



### ANKLE PUMPS

\*To neutral for Achilles repairs x6 weeks

Bend your foot up and down at your ankle joint as shown.

3 sets, 20 repetitions, 1-2x/day



### ANKLE CIRCLES

Move your ankle in a circular pattern one direction for several repetitions and then reverse the direction.

3 sets, 20 repetitions, 1-2x/day



### HEEL SLIDE

Using a rigid strap, slowly pull your knee towards you until a gentle stretch is felt. Do not stretch into pain on the front of your hip.

1 set, 10 repetitions, hold 10 seconds, 1-2x/day



# Hip Physical Therapy Exercises

## Core Strengthening

These strengthening exercises are safe to perform prior to your hip surgery in a pain-free range.



### ABDOMINAL BRACE

Laying on your back with your knees bent, draw in your belly button as if putting on a tight pair of pants. It should feel like you are flattening or pushing your back into the table/bed.

2 sets, 10 repetitions with 10 second hold, 1-2x/day



### STRAIGHT LEG RAISE – SLR

While lying on your back, raise up your leg with a straight knee. Keep the opposite knee bent with the foot planted on the ground. Ensure core muscles are activated.

2 sets, 10 repetitions, 1-2x/day



### BRIDGING

While lying on your back with knees bent, tighten your lower abdominals, squeeze your buttocks and then raise your buttocks off the floor/bed as creating a “Bridge” with your body. Hold and then lower yourself and repeat.

2 sets, 10 repetitions 3 second hold, 1-2x/day



### HIP ADDUCTION SQUEEZE – SUPINE

Place a rolled-up towel, ball or pillow between your knees and press your knees together so that you squeeze the object firmly. Ensure core is activated. Hold and then release and repeat.

2 sets, 10 repetitions 10 second hold, 1-2x/day



---

**SUPINE HIP ABDUCTION – CLAMSHELL**

Lie down on your back with your knees bent, tighten your core and then draw your knees apart.

2 sets, 10 repetitions, 1-2x/day



---

**LONG ARC QUAD**

While seated with your knee in a bent position, slowly straighten your knee as you raise your foot upwards as shown. Ensure core muscles are activated.

2 sets, 10 repetitions, 1-2x/day

# Medications To Stop Before Surgery

## Stop at Least 7 Days Prior to Surgery

### Stop all Aspirin\* containing products such as:

Coated ASA Uncoated ASA Ecotrin BC Powder	Disalcid Salsalate Dolobid Diflunisal Alka-Seltzer	Goody Powder Norgesic Pepto Bismol Percodan
---	--	--

### Stop all Antiplatelet\* Medications such as:

Aggrenox (aspirin + dipyridamole)	Plavix(clopidogrel)	Pletal(cilostazol)	Trental(pentoxil)
-----------------------------------	---------------------	--------------------	-------------------

**\*If You Have Heart Stents: DO NOT STOP PLAVIX OR ASPRIN UNTIL SEEN AND DIRECTED BY A CARDIOLOGIST PRIOR TO SURGERY.**

**Anticoagulation medications such as Coumadin, Lovenox, Eliquis or Xarelto need special instructions. Please discuss with your primary medical provider prior to surgery.**

### Stop all birth control pills & any male or female hormone (including creams or patches) such as:

Estrogens Estradiol Estraderm Estratest	Premarin Prempro Estrace	Ogen Emcyt Testosterone
--	--------------------------------	-------------------------------

### Stop all herbal & weight loss medications such as:

Alpha lipoic acid Cinnamon Chamomile Creatine Echinacea Acetyl L-carnitine	L- carnosine Ephedra Fish oil Garlic Ginkgo Milk Thistle	Glutamine Goldenseal Licorice Kava Ginseng	Skullcap Saw Palmetto St. John's Wort Tumeric
--	---	---	--

**Stop all vitamins and joint supplements containing products such as:**

Vitamin A Vitamin C Vitamin E Vitamin K	Fish Oil Omega 3,6,9 CoQ10 Juice Plus	Krill Oil Glucosamine Chondroitin MSM
--	--	---

**Stop all non-steroidal anti-inflammatory (NSAID) medications such as:**

Ibuprofen Advil Nuprin Ketoprofen Oruvail Orudis Cataflam Clinoril Sulindac Piroxicam Naprelan	Relafen Nabumetone Arthrotec Voltaren Tolectin Tolmetin Lodine Meclomen Meclofenamate Mediprin	Diclofenac Etodolac Mobic Meloxicam Naproxen Naprosyn Indocin Oxaprozin Daypro Indomethacin	Celebrex Celecoxib Aleve Anaprox Ansaid Feldene Naprelan Lodine Meclomen Meclofenamate
--	---	--	---

**Contact your primary care provider or specialist for instructions if you take any of the following medications:**

Humira Kineret Cimzia Remicade Cosentyx Orencia	Imuran Stelara Librium Enbrel Benlysta Librax	Rituxan Xeljanz Cytoxan Actemra Adderall
--	--	--

Your prescribing physician should help with monitoring these medications

# Medication Recommendations

## **You may continue taking the following medications:**

- Cholesterol medications
- Psychiatric medications
- Gabapentin
- Tylenol (regular, extra strength, arthritis)
- Ultram (Tramadol)
- Thyroid medications
- Ultracet
- Iron supplements
- Blood pressure medications – see additional instructions below regarding your blood pressure medication.

## **Preventing and Treating Narcotic-Induced Constipation:**

- For constipation start Senna-S (Senna + Docusate) 2 days before surgery (can substitute with Senna and Docusate as separate medications)
- Take 2 tablets, twice a day starting 2 days before surgery - if you experience loose or watery stools, STOP using the Senna-S and resume it the night of surgery

# Day Of Surgery Medication Recommendations

## **You should NOT take the following blood pressure medications on the day of surgery:**

- ❑ ACE Inhibitors. Common ACE Inhibitors include:  
benazepril (Lotensin), captopril (Capoten), enalapril (Vasotec), lisinopril (Prinivil, Zestril), quinapril (Accupril)
- ❑ Angiotensin Receptor Blockers (ARBs). Common ARBs include:  
losartan (Cozaar), olmesartan (Benicar), telmisartan (Micardis), valsartan (Diovan)
- ❑ Diuretics. Common diuretics include:  
hydrochlorothiazide (HCTZ, Microzide), furosemide (Lasix) spironolactone (Aldactone), triamterene (Dyrenium), chlorthalidone, bumetanide
- ❑ Pills that contain combinations of ACE Inhibitors, ARBs or diuretics

## **It is OK to take the following blood pressure medications on the day of surgery (with a small sip of water):**

- ❑ Beta blockers. Common beta blockers include: atenolol (Tenormin), metoprolol (Lopressor, Toprol), carvedilol (Coreg), propranolol (Inderal), acebutolol, bisoprolol, nadolol, penbutolol, pindolol
- ❑ Calcium channel blockers: Common calcium channel blockers include:  
amlodipine (Norvasc), diltiazem (Cardizem, Tiazac), ifedipine (Procardia), verapamil (Calan, Verelan, Covera-HS, nicardipine (Cardene SR), felodipine
- ❑ Vasodilators. Common vasodilators include: hydralazine, minoxidil, clonidine (Catapres), doxazosin (Cardura)

# What To Expect The Day Of Surgery

The surgical facility will inform you of your check in time for your procedure and we appreciate your timely arrival. Once the registration process is completed, a pre-operative nurse will assist you to your pre-operative room.

## **Pre-operative Area**

In the pre-operative room, your nurse will take your vital signs, review your medical and social history, and start your intravenous (IV) access line. You will visit with your surgeon, anesthesiologist, and other members of your care team who will be available to answer any additional questions.

During your time in the pre-operative area, you and your support person will receive additional information on what you can expect throughout the day as you progress through the phases of care to prepare for discharge. The phases of care are pre-operative room, operating room, recovery room and discharge phase. Plan to go home the **SAME DAY OF YOUR SURGERY** when you meet all discharge criteria.



# Preparing for Discharge

## Anesthesia

The surgical facility anesthesia team is made up of Board Certified or Board Eligible Physician Anesthesiologists and Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs). Your anesthesiologist will speak to you before surgery to discuss any health concerns and types of anesthesia that will be used during surgery. He or she will explain the risks and benefits associated with the different anesthetic options, as well as any complications or side effects that can occur with each type of anesthetic.

## Comprehensive Anesthesia

### General, Spinal and Regional anesthesia

#### General anesthesia:

- Anesthetic gas is administered, which requires a small breathing tube inserted after you are asleep and removed before you are awake.
- You will be fully asleep during your surgery.

#### Spinal anesthesia:

- A single injection of local anesthetic in the lower back which produces no movement or feeling from the waist down during your surgery and recovery period.
- It does not require assistance for breathing.
- It provides pain control for several hours after surgery.
- IV sedation medication will be administered during the procedure to induce “twilight sleep” (you will NOT be awake).

#### Regional anesthesia: Nerve Blocks: (surgeon specific)

During the procedure, your anesthesiologist may administer a single shot nerve block with numbing medication to your operative leg. This block may help decrease the amount of narcotic pain medication needed after surgery, while still preserving the strength in your operative leg and foot to allow for walking.

# What To Expect After Surgery

## Post-Anesthesia Care Unit (PACU)

### Phase One: Recovery Room

After surgery, you will be transferred to the recovery room where you will stay for 1-2 hours as you awaken from surgery. Your nurse and anesthesiologist will closely monitor your vital signs and manage your pain.

### Phase Two: Discharge Phase

Once your spinal block has worn off and your vitals are stable, you will walk with your nurse and be instructed on use of an assistive device (walker or cane). Physical Therapy will review mobility, home safety and activities of daily living that can be directly affected by your surgery. Early walking is encouraged and good for your new hip replacement. In addition, walking is the most important thing YOU can do to prevent blood clots!

Your discharge nurse will review your discharge instructions with you AND your support person. Your discharge instructions will address medications, pain management, infection PREVENTION and prophylactic measures to avoid blood clots; including surgeon specific instructions.

**In order to be safely discharged, you must meet the following criteria:**

- Able to tolerate a regular diet
- Have met Physical Therapy goals
- Pain is at a tolerable level
- Able to urinate

- **EXPECT TO HAVE PAIN AFTER SURGERY.** Hip replacement surgery is a major operation and can be very painful. Although we cannot eliminate all of your pain, we want it to be tolerable enough so that you are able to perform your therapy and daily activities. This is accomplished with appropriate pain medications in addition to ice, ambulation and positioning. You may have pain that is greater while you are walking and moving your hip in the first several weeks. You may also experience thigh soreness. This is a normal part of the healing process and walking is essential for a successful recovery.
- Bruising and swelling are expected after surgery and may vary from person to person. Initially, swelling and bruising will occur at the surgical site and is expected to continue and increase over the first two weeks after surgery. Over the first two weeks, expect swelling to spread to the entire leg and foot, especially after periods of prolonged walking or standing. Bruising may travel up as high as your groin and may reach down to your toes.
- Ice and frequent positional changes are essential strategies to help reduce swelling. Keep ice applied to the hip when at rest. You may use ice packs or the cold therapy unit. Always keep a barrier between the ice pack or cold therapy unit and your skin. The thigh and muscles surrounding your hip incision can become stiff and sore and you are encouraged to change positions or go on a short walk every 1-2 hours while awake. This will relax the sore muscles and improve your pain and stiffness with the added benefit of decreasing your risk for developing a blood clot.
- Sleeping may be difficult in the first several weeks. This is due to the physiologic burden of surgery, the new medications you are on, and a change in your activity level. Napping during the day may make sleeping at night difficult.
- Fatigue is also common following surgery for the same reasons outlined above. Eventually, you WILL get your energy back, but this may take several weeks or even several months for some people.
- Physical Therapy (PT) is not necessary after a hip replacement. Generally, patients regain full strength and function by simply walking and performing everyday activities after the surgery. In some cases, certain patients will benefit from PT after they leave the surgical facility. This recommendation will be determined by your surgeon and physical therapy team.
- Although you may experience a decrease in appetite, surgery is a stress on your body and increases the need for adequate nutrition. If your appetite has decreased, eat smaller, more frequent well-balanced meals. Remember to drink water and stay hydrated.
- Pain medications can cause constipation. Please be sure to stay hydrated and continue laxatives/stool softeners while on pain medication to decrease constipation risk. Please see **page 41** for examples of laxatives that can be purchased over the counter.

# Medications After Surgery

You will be on SOME of these medications based on your personalized medication plan. Please see a detailed discharge medication list for your personalized medication plan given to you at the surgical facility.

## Blood thinning medications to prevent blood clots

Please review your detailed discharge medications for recommendation of your personalized blood thinner. Either Aspirin or Eliquis will be used based on your medical history. In certain cases, other blood thinners may be used (Lovenox, Coumadin or Xarelto)

**Aspirin:** 81mg tablet to be taken twice a day for 30 days after surgery to help prevent blood clots

**-AND-**

**Protonix (Pantoprazole):** Stomach protector. Take 1 tablet daily, in the morning to protect your stomach. You should continue to take this medication for 30 days while you take aspirin.

**-OR-**

**Eliquis (Apixaban):** 2.5mg tablet to be taken twice a day for 30 days after surgery to help prevent blood clots

## Opioid Pain Medications for pain control

These medications are as needed and will be prescribed at the time of your discharge from the surgical facility based on your history and tolerance.

**Oxycodone:** Short-acting pain pill to be used as needed for breakthrough pain. You may take 1-2 tablets every 4-6 hours.

**-OR-**

**Hydrocodone/Acetaminophen (Norco):** Short-acting pain pill to be used as needed for breakthrough pain. You may take 1-2 tablets every 4-6 hours. This medication contains Acetaminophen (Tylenol) and is NOT to be used with over-the-counter Tylenol.

**-OR-**

**Hydromorphone (Dilaudid):** Short-acting pain pill to be used as needed for breakthrough pain. You may take 1-2 tablets every 4-6 hours.

### Prescription Muscle Relaxant

This medication may be prescribed and is used as needed to treat muscle spasms after surgery.

**Robaxin (Methocarbamol):** Muscle relaxant, take prescribed dose every 8 hours as needed for muscle spasms.

### Prescription Non-Steroidal Anti-Inflammatory (NSAID)

**Meloxicam (Mobic):** Anti-inflammatory, take prescribed dose for a total of 4 weeks after surgery. Make sure you take this medication with food. DO NOT use any over the counter NSAIDS (Advil, Motrin, Ibuprofen, Aleve, Naproxen) while taking Meloxicam.

### Prescription Nausea Prevention

**Ondansetron (Zofran):** Nausea medication to be used as needed. You may take one tablet every 4-6 hours.

### Over The Counter(OTC) Pain Medication

**Acetaminophen (Tylenol):** 650mg-1000mg every 6 hours as needed for mild-moderate pain, headache or fever. Please refer to your surgical facility discharge medication list for your appropriate dosing instructions. DO NOT take OTC Acetaminophen(Tylenol) if you are taking Norco for your opioid pain medication.

### Over The Counter(OTC) Constipation Prevention

**Senokot-S (Senna Plus):** Stool softener/laxative for constipation. Take 2 tablets twice a day starting 2 days before surgery until you are off all narcotics after surgery. May additionally utilize over the counter alternatives(if needed) to include: Miralax, Milk of Magnesia, Magnesium Citrate

# Post-Surgical Office Visits

We will ask you to return to the office at routine times after your discharge from the surgical facility . You will be seen approximately two weeks and six weeks from the time of surgery for your post-surgical visit with your surgeon or physician assistant.

## **At two week visit:**

- PLEASE bring in ALL of your post surgical medications that you are currently taking in their original bottles so your surgeon and care team can review and adjust them as needed.
- This appointment will include a physical examination with incision check and medication review.

## **At six week visit:**

This appointment will include a physical examination with incision check, medication review and xray of your new hip.

Further follow-up visits with your surgeon are recommended around 3-6 months, 1 year mark and annually thereafter. Please consult with your surgeon regarding the specific follow up timeframes. It is important to come in for routine evaluations and xrays of your hip even if you are feeling great. This recommendation is to monitor the implant for any signs of loosening, wear or early failure that should be addressed prior to you becoming symptomatic.

Should you desire to schedule a visit for any reason you are always welcome to do so.

# Financial Information

## Financial Information

We understand that financial planning is an important step toward feeling prepared and informed about your upcoming surgery. Please expect Panorama Orthopedics to collect at least 60% of the bill due for surgery in advance of your surgery date. This amount is based on the amount that you are responsible for according to your insurance plan (i.e. deductible, copay, or co-insurance). You may anticipate additional billing from the surgical facility and anesthesia team that is not included in Panorama's bill.

If needed, a payment plan may be created to help manage the cost of surgery. This typically involves monthly payments and requires a credit card on file where monthly charges are made. If you have questions regarding your bill, please contact our Billing Customer Service Team at:

[CustomerServiceTeam@panoramaortho.com](mailto:CustomerServiceTeam@panoramaortho.com)

720-497-6637 (M-F 7:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.)



## **1. I need a refill of my surgical medications. Who do I call?**

If you need a refill of your medication at any point, you need to call Panorama's Prescription line (720-497-6662) and follow the prompts. Please be aware that requests after 3pm are handled the next business day.

## **2. I went home with oxygen; how long do I need it and how do I get rid of it?**

Occasionally, patients are sent home from the surgical facility with oxygen to help improve breathing for the initial 2 weeks. The decision to put you on oxygen is made by the internal medicine provider and respiratory therapists at the surgical facility. Prior to discontinuing home oxygen, contact your primary medical provider for an evaluation. If discontinuation of oxygen is recommended, please contact the oxygen company on the form that was given to you at the time of your discharge. Most often, there is a contact phone number on the oxygen tank or equipment. If you are unable to locate this contact information, please contact the Respiratory Department at the surgical facility for further instruction to set up a date and time to pick up the oxygen tank.

## **3. What is the healing process like after a hip replacement?**

Expect to go home the same day of your surgery. On the day of surgery you should expect to walk and put full weight on your new hip! Initially, you may use a cane or walker to help you walk. You can eliminate these walking aids whenever you feel comfortable doing so. When you first begin to walk on your new hip, you may have pain and this is normal. Pain generally improves dramatically in the first several days to weeks after surgery. Thigh soreness is especially common in the first few weeks. On average, by week 6 most patients are about 75% recovered ("healed") from surgery. By 3 months, most patients are about 90% recovered. Complete recovery, including maximal pain relief and function, takes about 1 year.

## **4. When can I drive and return to work? How do I get a disability or FMLA paperwork signed?**

Patients generally begin driving and returning to work between 2 and 6 weeks after surgery. Please be sure to speak with your surgeon before driving or returning to work as recovery time is individualized based on your specific surgery. Please email any disability or FMLA paperwork to the physician communication email box at least 2 weeks prior to your surgery for timely completion.

## **5. I have heard there are different approaches to hip replacement. Is one approach superior?**

There are several ways to perform a hip replacement. A surgeon may enter the hip joint from various anatomical approaches to include anterior, anterolateral, lateral, posterior and posterolateral. Despite what you have read or been told, there is no single approach that is better than another. Each surgeon has training in all approaches and will discuss with you at length the appropriate approach and implant based on your individualized needs.

## **6. What will my hip feel like when I am completely healed?**

Having a realistic expectation about your hip replacement will ultimately lead to your satisfaction with the surgery. The goal of hip replacement is to improve your pain, mobility and activity level. Most people can expect to have a hip that feels natural and pain free when it is completely healed. You may have a small area of numbness around your incision. Some people may also notice periodic tenderness around the lateral or outermost point of the hip (“trochanteric bursitis”).

## **7. How long will my hip last?**

This is a difficult question to answer as many factors determine the longevity of a hip replacement. Major orthopedic studies indicate that modern hip replacements last a long time. Several recent studies show that there is a greater than 95% chance that a hip replacement will last 15-20 years or more. With the new advances in the implants, many orthopedic surgeons are expecting over 30 years of longevity, but more data is needed.

## **8. Is swelling common after hip replacement?**

Yes. In fact, you should anticipate quite a bit of swelling from your thigh to your foot after surgery. Your operative leg may swell to as much as 30% larger than your other leg. The swelling peaks at about 7-10 days after surgery and gradually diminishes. Sometimes the leg can have substantial bruising as well. This bruising is not dangerous. It may take months for all the swelling to resolve.

## **9. Why do I have to take all these medications after my surgery?**

Medications after surgery are prescribed to help ensure a safe and comfortable recovery.

Blood thinners are necessary to help prevent blood clots. IF YOU ARE HAVING A SIDE EFFECT FROM THE BLOOD THINNER OR YOUR INSURANCE DOESN'T COVER THIS MEDICATION PLEASE CALL YOUR SURGEON PRIOR TO STOPPING AS THIS IS A NECESSARY MEDICATION.

Pain medications help decrease your discomfort after surgery. Your surgeon uses “multimodal” pain control, which has been clinically proven to be effective after hip replacement surgery. Multimodal pain control uses different types of medication, which can improve your pain and mobility, thus decreasing the need for opioid pain medications.

In general, patients are given an anti-inflammatory medication (Meloxicam) for 4 weeks and a short acting “as needed” pain medication (oxycodone, hydrocodone, or hydromorphone) and in most cases Acetaminophen (Tylenol).

The most common side effects from these pain medications are nausea, constipation, and itching. To help decrease these side effects, you may be given anti-nausea medication (Zofran), stool softeners (Senokot or Docusate), and anti-itching medication if needed (Benadryl, Atarax).

## **10. When can I travel? Do I need a special card to give to the security agent for screening?**

There are no formal travel restrictions following your hip replacement, but we do recommend you walk frequently to avoid blood clots and stiffness. You do NOT need a special card or note from your surgeon for the airport. Simply inform the security agent you have a hip replacement and they will screen you appropriately.

## **11. What should my activity level be after surgery?**

Every patient is different. Each day you should be increasing your activity level, but let pain and swelling be your guide. The first 2 weeks are associated with the most pain and swelling. On average, you will make 75% of your recovery by week 6 and 90% by 3 months. You may have increased swelling or discomfort if you overdo it. If this occurs, please listen to your body and rest your hip more to improve pain and swelling over the course of a few days.

## **12. What are hip precautions and why do I have them?**

Although rare, any hip replacement has the potential to come out of the socket (dislocate) after surgery. Hip precautions are the positions that should be avoided after surgery to prevent possible dislocation and allow the soft tissues around your new hip joint to heal completely. This healing takes around 6 weeks. These precautions will vary or be lifted depending on your surgeon and the approach your surgeon used to perform your hip replacement. Before you leave the surgical facility, the physical therapist will educate you and your support person on your specific hip precautions.

## **13. When can I shower or bathe?**

You can shower the day after surgery and let water run over your hip and leg. Your dressing is waterproof. Leave it in place. Please remove your dressing when instructed by your surgeon. Please refer to your dressing for the exact removal date. Please avoid putting lotions/creams/ointments on the incision until cleared by your surgeon or physician assistant. You should avoid soaking in a bath or pool for 4-6 weeks after surgery when your incision is completely healed.

## **14. I just had a hip replacement. What positions can I sleep in?**

You may sleep in any position you are comfortable in. You may sleep on your back or either side, but you may feel sore trying to sleep directly on your new hip incision initially. Most patients feel more comfortable with a pillow between their knees when sleeping on their side. Please abide by your surgeon's specific hip precautions for 6 weeks following your surgery.

## **15. When can I restart the medications I was told to stop prior to surgery?**

Prior to your discharge from the surgical facility your care team will discuss your detailed medication list and will go over when you may safely resume your home medications. If you have additional medication questions, please check with your surgeon or your primary medical provider prior to restarting any medication in question.

## **16. Do I need to take antibiotics when seeing the dentist?**

Dental prophylaxis is not be routinely recommended in patients who have undergone a total joint replacement. Prophylaxis in unique situations, based on sound clinical judgment, may be considered and is not out of the scope of good practice.

## 17. What are the major risks of hip replacement surgery?

**Infection:** Infection remains the biggest risk after hip replacement and can occur anywhere from days to years after surgery. An infected total hip replacement requires surgery (sometimes multiple surgeries). Great measures are taken to help avoid infection. The national infection rate after hip replacement is about 1 in 100 (1%).

Check the skin surrounding your dressing or incision daily and please notify your surgeon or Panorama Triage at 303-233-1223 if you are experiencing bright red, warm or “angry” appearance on skin or around the surgical site. In addition, please contact us for any type of drainage from your incision.

**Blood clots:** A blood clot, also known as deep vein thrombosis (DVT), may occur after surgery and can be potentially life threatening if it travels to your lungs (Pulmonary Embolism). The risk of death from blood clots has been greatly reduced in recent years by the use of anticoagulants (blood thinners) and early mobilization (walking, moving, etc.). The symptoms of DVT are new or extreme swelling or a sudden increase in pain in the leg or calf. Please know that substantial swelling is normal and expected, as is some moderate calf and thigh pain. Most instances of swelling and pain are normal and improve with rest and elevation!

If you are concerned with the amount of swelling in your leg or you develop sudden calf/leg pain, please call your surgeon or Panorama Triage at 303-233-1223 immediately. Chest pain, shortness of breath, coughing up blood or rapid heartbeat are possible signs of a DVT that has moved to the lungs (Pulmonary Embolism or “PE”). If you are experiencing any of these symptoms, go to the ER immediately.

**Continued pain or stiffness:** In rare cases people continue to have pain after a hip replacement. Often the cause of this pain can be determined, but rarely it may be difficult to determine while a hip still hurts. Fortunately, this is uncommon.

**Dislocation:** Dislocation occurs when the ball comes out of the hip socket. Dislocation requires a procedure typically performed in the emergency room to put the ball back in the socket. Some dislocations may require additional surgery.

**Limb Length Inequality:** One of the surgeon's goals for hip replacement is to make your legs equal in length. Measurements are taken during surgery and the vast majority of patients will not have a difference in leg lengths after surgery. Occasionally, the operative leg will feel longer than the other leg and this is due to a perceived muscular imbalance and this sensation should improve with time as you gain your strength back. Additionally, there are some occasions that a hip has to be lengthened in order to provide stability and prevent the hip from dislocating. If this difference persists, a shoe lift may be recommended.

**Need for more operations:** Most hip replacements last many years. Early reoperation may be required in rare cases.

**Nerve or blood vessel injury:** Major nerve or blood vessel injury is exceedingly uncommon after hip replacement surgery. Your surgeon will take every precaution during surgery to maintain the integrity of the vascular and nervous system.

# Appendix

## Nutritional Guidelines

Surgery can stress your body, but if you prepare for it, you can reduce the stress. Improving your nutrition can have a significant impact on the speed and quality of your recovery. If able, increasing your activity will help prepare your body for surgery. Please note, if you use tobacco products, quitting is essential.

Good nutrition is important before and after surgery as part of your treatment and recovery plan. Eating healthy foods and a variety of foods will help you heal faster.

A balanced diet that includes a variety of fruits and vegetables offers many health benefits. Fruits and vegetables have antioxidant and anti-inflammatory properties that are essential for good health. To follow a balanced and healthy eating pattern:

- Fruits and vegetables: Select a variety of five or more servings a day. These plant foods have phytochemicals (plant chemicals) that provide health benefits for the body.

Vegetables high in phytochemicals include broccoli, cauliflower, kale, cabbage and brussels sprouts.

Eat the rainbow – choose fruits and vegetables of every color to increase your variety.

- Lean protein: Include a source of protein at each meal. Protein is an important nutrient needed to make and repair cells in the body and an increase in protein is required after surgery. Healthy sources of proteins include poultry, lean cuts of pork, fish, dried beans, low fat cheese and milk, Greek yogurt, legumes, and nuts. Avoid fried foods, and fatty meats.

- Limit refined sugar intake (sugar-sweetened beverages, desserts, etc.).

- Stay hydrated with plenty of water.

- If you have diabetes, make sure your blood glucose is under control prior to surgery.

Use the [ChooseMyPlate.gov](http://ChooseMyPlate.gov) guidelines from the USDA as a model of a healthy diet. For more nutrition and meal planning resources, please visit Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics: [www.eatright.org](http://www.eatright.org)



## Chlorhexidine Gluconate (CHG) Pre-Op Bathing Instructions

Panorama follows a standardized process for the prevention of surgical site infections. Below is a summary of the things you can do to help.

### PLEASE READ ALL INSTRUCTIONS COMPLETELY PRIOR TO BATHING

#### All Surgical Procedures

- Most drug stores will carry small bottles(8oz) of chlorhexidine gluconate (4% CHG) that you may purchase for about \$5.00. Look for Hibiclens® or Dyna-Hex®, or ask the pharmacist. These are also available for purchase at Panorama's DME Stores (Golden, Westminster.)

**NOTE: this product will not be covered by insurance**

- The night before surgery, place a fifty-cent piece size of CHG solution onto a clean washcloth and apply to all body surface areas (excluding face, hair and genitals). Wash thoroughly with special attention on the area where your surgery will be. Use additional soap when needed to cover all areas.
  - At the end of your shower, wait 2 minutes before rinsing the soap-like material off of your skin surfaces. Use a clean towel to pat dry.
- Do not apply lotion, creams, or deodorant after your shower.
- If possible, sleep in clean pajamas and on clean sheets the night before surgery.
- Do not shave the area of surgery. Do not shave legs before hip or knee surgery
- DO NOT use this product on your body or incision after surgery.

CAUTION: Do not use it on the face, eyes, ears, or mouth and avoid use in genital area. If you accidentally get some of the soap in those areas, rinse immediately. If you experience burning or irritation on the skin, rinse immediately and do NOT reapply.

# Appendix

## DONJOY Iceman Classic 3 Cold Therapy Unit

Cold therapy unit helps patients and medical practitioners easily manage post-operative pain and swelling, speeding up patient recovery and rehabilitation. The cold therapy unit can be purchased at the locations listed below. No appointment or reservation is needed to pick up. Please call to confirm availability (303-233-1223 ext.1600).

Item Price: \$195.00 plus tax (this item is not billable to insurance).



Westminster	Golden	Highlands Ranch
14190 Orchard Parkway Suite 200 Westminster, CO 80023	660 Golden Ridge Rd. Suite 250 Golden, CO 80401	1060 Plaza Drive Suite 200 Highlands Ranch, CO 80129

### User Tips:

□ If you are planning on bringing your cold therapy unit to recovery after surgery please leave it **sealed** in the box.

□ Frozen disposable plastic water bottles can be used as a “reusable” ice cube. You can fit 3-4 standard size (16.9 oz.) water bottles inside the unit. Keep an additional 3-4 in the freezer to swap back and forth. **Be sure to take the labels off of the disposable plastic water bottles in order to prevent the paper from coming off in the water and clogging the motor.** Refresh the water daily to help keep the unit sanitary.

□ Patients should ice 20 minutes on and 40 minutes off unless instructed otherwise by your physician. The easiest way to remember this is to ice for 20 minutes every hour on the hour.

□ To clean, circulate warm water and 1-2 Tablespoons of white vinegar. Be sure to clean prior to storing.

□ All units are non-refundable once they have been used. The unit has a 6 month manufacturer’ warranty. If any manufacturer issues arise with the unit please bring it to the point of purchase with the receipt in order to repair or replace the unit. **We are not able to honor warranty replacements without a receipt present.**

For questions **please call: 303-233-1223 ext. 1600.** If we are unable to answer please leave a voicemail. We aim to respond within 24 hours.

## CONSTIPATION PROTOCOL

### Let's talk "SMAC": Surgery, Medication - Associated Constipation

- Narcotic pain medications taken after surgery can cause the bowels to temporarily slow or stop, resulting in constipation.
- While taking narcotic pain pills at home, it is recommended that extra fluids, fiber, and laxatives be taken daily.

#### Extra Fluids:

6-8 cups of water per day

(Avoid caffeine and alcohol, which may make constipation worse).

#### Extra Fiber

Foods with high "insoluble" fiber (best for constipation per serving):

Wheat bran cereals (Fiber One, All-Bran, Raisin Bran), beans (all types), sweet potato (with skin), whole wheat pasta, peas, and raspberries.

**Stimulant Laxative**- *Activates intestines by contracting muscle lining and causing bowels to move:*

Senokot (Senna)

Ex-Lax (Senna)

Dulcolox (Bisacodyl)

Correctol (Bisacodyl)

**Osmotic Laxative** - *Activates intestines by pulling in water and causing bowels to move:*

Milk of Magnesia

Miralax

Magnesium Citrate

**Stool Softeners** (Colase, Docusate, etc.) may be taken for hard stools in combination with Laxatives.

**Soluble" fiber laxatives** (Metamucil, Fibercon, etc.) are less effective for constipation related to pain pills. Take all medications as directed. Notify your provider if constipation persists/







**PANORAMA**  
Orthopedics & Spine Center

[www.panoramaortho.com](http://www.panoramaortho.com)