###### http://www.louisvillebones.com/images/oslogo.gif

######  Knee Post Op Instructions

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 **1.Discharge to home when comfortable**

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######  2. Post- Operative Appointment: You will receive at the day of your surgery

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1. **Regular diet: Start with clear liquids and gradually increase to a regular diet as tolerated. It is not uncommon to have some nausea or vomiting after general anesthesia.**
2. **How to control your pain**
	1. **When you arrive at home after surgery take 2 pain pills**
	2. **Take two more pain pills in 4 hours after your first dose, even if you are not having pain. It is important to get some pain medicine circulating in your blood stream before the numbing medicine starts to wear off.**
	3. **Take the medication *before* you are having a significant amount of pain.**
	4. **Some of the side effects of pain medication includes constipation and nausea. For constipation you may try to increase your fluids; prune juice, milk of magnesia, senekot, Colace, miralax, or even magnesium citrate.**
	5. **Swelling causes a significant amount of pain. To decrease your swelling, apply ice to the area. Continue to use the ice until most of the swelling is gone: \*3 to 7 days.\***
	6. **Keep the area that was operated on elevated. Wiggling your fingers or toes.**
	7. **If you need a refill on your pain medication you must call during the week. Call 1 to 2 days before you anticipate running out of medication. Pain medication will not be refilled over the weekend. Medication will not be filled after 3:30 pm on Monday through Thursday and on Fridays after noon. Please call during regular business hrs.**
	8. **Please report any severe calf pain, chest pain or shortness of breath. Call the office and speak with your physician. If it is after hours please call the physician on call at 502-212-2663 or go to the Emergency Room for further evaluation.**
3. **Wound Care**
	1. **Keep the dressing dry. The most important part of wound care is preventing infection. The skin has bacteria that naturally live on it. Bath or shower water can transport the bacteria to the surgical wound.**
	2. **Change the dressing in 2 to 3 days. Replace the dressing with a clean dressing. Please purchase some 4 x 4 gauze pads at the drug store to place over the wound. Change the dressing daily. Keep a clean dressing on for 5 to 7 days.**
	3. **Do not remove the little white tape that is directly over the wound(s). You may clean this area with alcohol. Do not put any ointment on the wound. If sutures are present do not cut them, trim ends or remove.**
	4. **Do not get the wound area wet until you follow up in the office for your first post-operative visit. The wound must heal before bath/shower water can touch area.**
	5. **Keep the wound covered until it is completely healed. It is important to prevent bacteria that are in the home, on clothes, bed sheets and pets from infecting the surgical wound.**
	6. **Cigarette smoke & smoking increase the risk of infection and slow the wound healing process. Cigarettes contain high doses of nicotine that cause small blood vessels to constrict and reduce blood flow to the wound, and increase the risk of infection. If you smoke or are around people that do, then you are slowing the wound healing process and increasing the risk of infection.**
	7. **If at any time during your recovery there is any wound drainage, increased redness at the wound, fever or increasing pain, contact the physician as soon as possible for further directions.**

## Knee Surgery Patients Only

## As stated above, you may change your dressing after 2-3 days but put the ace wrap back on and wear it until you are seen back in the office. If the ace wrap gets any blood on it please replace this during the first dressing change. Ace wraps can be purchased at a pharmacy.

1. **Start range of motion exercises and straight leg raise exercises 1 to 2 days after surgery**
2. **Please pump your ankle and wiggle your toes. This will help to reduce swelling and in turn help to decrease your pain.**
3. **Crutches: Use as needed, weight bearing as tolerated / Use until seen in office: no weight bearing / toe touch weight bearing**
4. **Change your ice pack every 2 hours (while awake) until most of the swelling is gone, this may take 3 to 5 days.**
5. **If you had a knee arthroscopy, you may resume activities as tolerated as soon as the day after surgery. Use pain as your guide to slowly work yourself back to your regular daily activity, you may put weight on your leg as tolerated.**

**Knee Physical Therapy Orders: This will be filled out if you have had a knee manipulation**

1. **Physical Therapy Orders:**
	1. **Your P.T. appointment: Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Time\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

 **Location\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Doctor’s Signature\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ *(Revised January 2013)***