

Brian Forsythe, M.D.
Sports Medicine
Shoulder, Elbow, Knee Arthroscopy
Shoulder Replacement Surgery

Lee DeDore, PA-C, ATC
Sincer Jacob, PA-C
Jessica Morin, ATC
Deanna Cozzi, ATC
Maryellen Gebien
708-236-2782

MIDWEST
ORTHOPAEDICS
at RUSH



Midwest Orthopaedics at Rush
1611 W. Harrison St, Ste 400
Chicago, IL 60612

Munster Indiana Office
9200 Calumet Avenue
Munster, IN 46321

Rush Oak Brook
2011 York Road, Ste 1500
Oak Brook, IL 60523

**DISCHARGE INSTRUCTIONS & PHYSICAL THERAPY PROTOCOL:
Clavicle Fracture Open Reduction Internal Fixation**

❖ Initial recovery after shoulder surgery entails healing, controlling swelling and discomfort. The following instructions are intended as a guide to help you achieve these goals until your 1st postoperative visit.

❖ **COMFORT**

○ **Cold Therapy**

- If you elected to receive the **circulating cooling device**, this can be used continuously for the first 3 days, (while the initial post-op dressing is on). After 3 days, the cooling device should be applied 3 times a day for 20-30 minute intervals.
- If you elected to receive the **gel wrap**, this may be applied for 20 minutes on, 20 minutes off as needed. You may apply this over the post-op dressing. Once the dressing is removed, be sure to place a barrier (shirt, towel, cloth, etc.) between your skin and the gel wrap.
- If you elected to use **regular ice**, this may be applied for 20 minutes on, 20 minutes off as needed. You may apply this over the post-op dressing. Once the dressing is removed, be sure to place a barrier (shirt, towel, cloth, etc.) between your skin and the gel wrap.

○ **Medication**

- **Pain Medication-** Take medications as prescribed, but only as often as necessary. Avoid alcohol and driving if you are taking pain medication.
 - You have been provided a narcotic prescription postoperatively. Use this medication sparingly for moderate to severe pain.
 - **You are allowed two (2) refills of your narcotic prescription if necessary.**
 - When refilling pain medication, weaning down to a lower potency or non-narcotic prescription is recommended as soon as possible.
 - Extra strength Tylenol may be used for mild pain.
 - Over the counter anti-inflammatories (Ibuprofen, Aleve, Motrin, etc.) should be **avoided** for the first 4 weeks following surgery.

Brian Forsythe, M.D.
Sports Medicine
Shoulder, Elbow, Knee Arthroscopy
Shoulder Replacement Surgery

Lee DeDore, PA-C, ATC
Sincer Jacob, PA-C
Jessica Morin, ATC
Deanna Cozzi, ATC
Maryellen Gebien
708-236-2782

MIDWEST
ORTHOPAEDICS
at RUSH



Midwest Orthopaedics at Rush
1611 W. Harrison St, Ste 400
Chicago, IL 60612

Munster Indiana Office
9200 Calumet Avenue
Munster, IN 46321

Rush Oak Brook
2011 York Road, Ste 1500
Oak Brook, IL 60523

- **Anti-coagulation medication:** A medication to prevent post-operative blood clots has been prescribed (Aspirin, Lovenox, etc.) This is the only medication that MUST be taken as prescribed until directed to stop by Dr. Forsythe.
- **Nausea Medication** – Zofran (Odansetron) has been prescribed for nausea. You may take this as needed per the prescription instructions.
- **Constipation Medication** - Colace has been prescribed for constipation. Both your pain medication and the anesthesia can cause constipation. Take this as needed.
- **Driving** – Driving is NOT permitted as long as the sling is necessary.

❖ ACTIVITIES

- You are immobilized with a sling, full time, for approximately the first 4-6 weeks. Your doctor can tell you when you can this at your 1st postoperative visit. The sling may be removed for exercises.
- Physical therapy will about 4-6 week after surgery.
- Athletic activities such as throwing, lifting, swimming, bicycling, jogging, running, and stop-and-go sports should be avoided until cleared by Dr. Forsythe.

❖ WOUND CARE

- **Bathing** - Tub bathing, swimming, and soaking of the shoulder **should be avoided** until allowed by your doctor - Usually 2-3 weeks after your surgery. Keep the dressing on, clean and dry for the first 3 days after surgery.
 - You may shower 3 days after surgery with WATERPROOF band-aids on. Apply new band-aids after showering.
- **Dressings** - Remove the dressing 3 days after surgery. You may apply band-aids to the small incisions around your shoulder.
- **Dressings** – Your sling should remain on until your first postoperative appointment except when showering.

❖ EATING

- Your first few meals, after surgery, should include light, easily digestible foods and plenty of liquids, since some people experience slight nausea as a temporary reaction to anesthesia.

Brian Forsythe, M.D.

Sports Medicine
Shoulder, Elbow, Knee Arthroscopy
Shoulder Replacement Surgery

Lee DeDore, PA-C, ATC

Sincer Jacob, PA-C

Jessica Morin, ATC

Deanna Cozzi, ATC

Maryellen Gebien

708-236-2782

MIDWEST
ORTHOPAEDICS
at RUSH



Midwest Orthopaedics at Rush

1611 W. Harrison St, Ste 400
Chicago, IL 60612

Munster Indiana Office

9200 Calumet Avenue
Munster, IN 46321

Rush Oak Brook

2011 York Road, Ste 1500
Oak Brook, IL 60523

❖ **CALL YOUR PHYSICIAN IF:**

- Pain in your extremity persists or worsens in the first few days after surgery.
- Excessive redness or drainage of cloudy or bloody material from the wounds (Clear red tinted fluid and some mild drainage should be expected). Drainage of any kind 5 days after surgery should be reported to the doctor.
- You have a temperature elevation greater than 101°
- You have pain, swelling or redness in your arm or hand.
- You have numbness or weakness in your arm or hand.

❖ **RETURN TO THE OFFICE**

- Your first return to our office should be within the first 1-2 weeks after your surgery. You can find your appointment for this first post-operative visit in the post op instruction folder.