



# EXCEL

ORTHOPEDIC SURGERY & RECOVERY

[TCOEXCEL.com](http://TCOEXCEL.com)

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Dear EXCEL Patient,

Welcome to the TCO EXCEL Orthopedic Surgery and Recovery program! The physicians and staff at TCO are pleased you have selected us for your upcoming surgery. We are committed to providing quality medical care and excellent service to each one of our patients.

We would like to take the time to briefly discuss the process for your upcoming surgery. This manual is designed to offer information on your preparation before surgery, the surgery itself, and the road to recovery after your procedure. It is important for your recovery that you feel supported and well prepared for the upcoming operation.

We take great pride in the care our patients receive. Our team is here to assist you through this entire process. If you have questions at any time, please feel free to contact our team.

We look forward to working with you and getting you back to all the activities you enjoy.



**Leah Zimmerman, RN, BSN**

EXCEL Program Director

LeahZimmerman@TCOmn.com

763-302-2701

**Welcome to Twin Cities Orthopedics!**

Thank you for choosing Twin Cities Orthopedics for your orthopedic needs. We take pride in providing the highest quality of specialized orthopedic care for muscle, bone and joint conditions.

As the largest orthopedic group in Minnesota and the second largest in the nation, we are pleased to offer the collective expertise and experience of over 100 board-certified physicians. We have developed the TCO EXCEL program to help advance the practice of orthopedic medicine, providing patients with successful outcomes and positive experience.

The model offers:

- Simplified billing with the goal of reducing the cost of health care.
- Efficient surgery performed in an ambulatory surgery center.
- Recovery in a comfortable and private orthopedic recovery suite.
- Total coordination of care from day one to full recovery.
- One-on-one personalized concierge service from your surgeon and a Registered Nurse who will guide you through every step of the process.

We understand that the thought of surgery can be stressful, which is why we have worked hard to make the TCO EXCEL experience as seamless and comfortable as possible. This manual will assist in educating you about your surgical condition, procedure and treatment.

If there is anything we can do to provide the best possible care, please let us know.

Sincerely,



**Chris Meyer, MD**

President, Twin Cities Orthopedics

## **Blaine Orthopedic Surgery Center**

11225 Ulysses St NE, Suite 300

Blaine, MN 55434

Phone: 763-302-2200

## **Crosstown Surgery Center**

4010 West 65th Street, 3rd Floor

Edina, MN 55435

Phone: 952-456-7300

## **Eagan Orthopedic Surgery Center**

2700 Vikings Circle, Suite 300

Eagan, MN 55121

Phone: 952-456-7100

## **High Pointe Surgery Center**

8650 Hudson Blvd, Suite 235

Lake Elmo, MN 55042

Phone: 651-702-7400

## **Plymouth Orthopedic Surgery Center**

16800 37th Pl N, 3rd Floor

Plymouth, MN 55446

Phone: 763-298-3500

## **Two Twelve Surgery Center**

111 Hundertmark Rd, Suite 340

Chaska, MN 55318

Phone: 952-456-7900

## **North Memorial Ambulatory Surgery Center at Maple Grove**

9855 Hospital Dr, Suite 175

Maple Grove, MN 55369

Phone: 763-581-9000

## EXCEL CARE TEAM

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### ROLE OF EXCEL RN PROGRAM COORDINATOR

Your EXCEL coordinator is here to guide you through the entire experience. This role includes:

- Providing you with detailed information about the EXCEL program and what is necessary to ensure you are ready for surgery and recovery.
- Reviewing your Preoperative exam that is completed by your primary care provider.
- Getting you connected with a Preoperative education class
- Assisting in coordinating your care between the surgeon's office, your primary care provider's office, the surgery center and your stay.
- Assessing your needs when you are discharged to your home.
- Answering your questions and providing you with any resources needed before and after surgery.

Your EXCEL RN Coordinator will call you 4-6 weeks before surgery to go through the Preoperative information.

### THINGS THAT YOU CAN DO PRIOR TO THE CALL WITH YOUR RN COORDINATOR:

1. Schedule your Preoperative physical with your primary care provider 21-29 days prior to surgery.
2. Identify who is available to help in your recovery.
3. Visit <https://TCOEXCEL.com/> to find online patient resources.

## PREOPERATIVE HISTORY & PHYSICAL

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Schedule a Preoperative history and physical, also known as an H&P, with your primary care provider. A Preoperative H&P is required for all patients having surgery. The date of your appointment should be 21-29 days prior to your surgery date. This timeline allows the team plenty of time to receive the information and follow up on anything that is outstanding or requires additional clearance for surgery without having to delay your surgery date.

**Please share this page or inform your provider that you will need the following labs and testing completed for surgery in an outpatient surgery center:**

- CBC lab draw
- BMP lab draw
- A1C within last three months with a diabetes diagnosis
- EKG for anyone older than age 65 -OR- has a cardiac history or takes cardiac medications (EKG within last 6 months is accepted)

In the back of this book is a Preoperative History & Physical Document that can be removed and given to your provider at your appointment. With electronic documentation, very few providers complete their documentation on this form.

Talk with your provider about all the medications that you take. Your provider will advise when you should stop taking these medications before surgery and when it is safe to resume these after the operation. General recommendations for stopping medications seven days before surgery:

- Aspirin
- Multivitamins and supplements unless specifically advised to take (example Iron)
- NSAIDs (examples Ibuprofen, Motrin, Advil)
- GLP1 Medications: Stop weekly injectables 7 days prior. Stop daily injectables day before surgery.

## **YOUR COACH**

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Schedule a Preoperative history and physical, also known as an H&P, with your primary care provider.

- Your coach should be someone who has the time and physical abilities to assist you throughout this process.
- You are encouraged to share the EXCEL education materials with your coach.
- Your coach is needed at the surgery center on the day of surgery and available for your discharge instructions.
- If your recovery plan of care includes an overnight in the EXCEL Recovery Suites, your coach should attend one of the physical therapy sessions and be available to bring you home between 10-11am the day after surgery.

## **EXCEL PRE-OP EDUCATION CLASS**

We know that our patients are busy and there are many things to plan for prior to your surgery. We offer self-paced modules for our patients to receive additional education on how to prepare and what to expect with your surgery and recovery.

Below is a brief overview of what you can expect in the education materials:

- Instructions on preparing for surgery
- Day of surgery expectations in the surgery center
- Surgical procedure overview
- The discharge process
- Patient safety, mobility, pain management, and preventing complications
- Physical Therapy

Your EXCEL RN Coordinator will assist you in receiving the additional teaching information.

## GETTING INTO SHAPE FOR SURGERY

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### Alcohol, Tobacco and Drugs

- Don't consume alcohol for at least 24 hours before surgery. If you have concerns about abstaining from alcohol, please contact your RN Coordinator.
- Cannabis products should be stopped 24 hours prior to surgery.
- Do not use tobacco products after midnight on the day of surgery.
- If you use any other types of controlled substances, tell your doctor. Narcotics and other drugs can have an impact on your surgery and your recovery.

### Maintaining a Healthy Weight

It is important to eat well before your surgery. Good nutrition will help with healing after surgery and preventing complications. Excess weight can add extra stress to your body during surgery. It can also put extra stress on the new joint during your recovery. Check with your RN Coordinator or your surgeon if you need support and guidance about maintaining a healthy weight.

### Exercises

In the appendix of this manual, you will find exercises to do prior to and after surgery. Performing the exercises before surgery will make them easier for you to do after surgery.

### Nutrition

Poor nutrition before and after surgery can significantly increase the risk for surgical site infections, delay healing, and impair incision strength.

Nutrient	Function	Food Source
<b>Protein</b>	Maintenance and repair of body tissues.	White meat, fish, eggs, dairy products, liver, soy beans, legumes, seeds, nuts, and grains.
Calories: <b>Carbohydrates/ Fats</b>	Main sources of energy and prevents protein-energy malnutrition.	<b>Carbohydrates:</b> Whole grain cereals, breads, rice, and pasta. <b>Fats:</b> Meats, dairy products, oils, and fats (mono-polyunsaturated fats).
Antioxidants: <b>Vitamins C, A, and E</b>	Promoting incision healing while decreasing the chance for infection.	<b>Vitamin C:</b> Oranges, grapefruit, tomatoes, leafy vegetables, and juice. <b>Vitamin A:</b> Milk, eggs, cheese, dark green vegetables, oranges, and red vegetables. <b>Vitamin E:</b> Spinach, almonds, bell peppers, asparagus, and dark leafy greens.
Minerals: <b>Zinc and Iron</b>	<b>Zinc:</b> Important for protein and collagen synthesis and tissue growth and healing. <b>Iron:</b> Transports oxygen in the blood.	<b>Zinc:</b> Red meat, fish, shell fish, milk products, poultry, and eggs. <b>Iron:</b> Red meat, eggs, fish, whole wheat bread, dark green leafy vegetables, dried fruits, and nuts.
<b>Hydration</b>	Increases oxygen and nutrients to the surgical site while increasing the strength of the incision.	Water, juice, milk, soup, Jello, ice cream, and yogurt.

## PREPARING YOUR HOME

- Arrange furniture to allow clear pathways within and between rooms
- Adequate lighting for night-waking
- Secure loose rugs or carpets
- Make sure that the bed or chair you will be using is easy to get in and out of
- Store commonly used items in easy to reach locations

Some patients find purchasing additional equipment to be helpful: long-handle reacher, shoehorn, shower chair or bench, raised toilet seat.

## **THE DAY BEFORE SURGERY**

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The surgery center will contact you 24-72 hours before surgery to give you the arrival time for surgery and the eating and drinking restrictions.

### **Eating and Drinking**

- Eat a light dinner the night before surgery. We recommend avoiding fatty, greasy, or spicy foods. Stop eating food 8 hours before your scheduled surgery.
- You may drink clear liquids up to 2 hours before you arrive for surgery. Clear liquids include water, Gatorade, coffee and tea without additives like cream, milk, or sugar.

### **Packing for Surgery**

Please bring the following items when you arrive at the surgery center:

- Photo ID
- Insurance Card
- Assistive device if one was issued to you prior to surgery

Please leave all jewelry and valuables at home, including wedding bands.

## **NIGHT BEFORE SURGERY**

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You will complete two Preoperative showers with Hibiclens or Dial soap. Hibiclens or Dial soap can be purchased at any drug store. Complete the first of the two Preoperative showers the night before surgery. Change your bed sheets so you sleep on clean linens after your shower.

### **Showering Instructions**

1. You may use your own shampoo & conditioner first in the shower
2. Wash everything from the neck down with Hibiclens or Dial soap
3. Wash the surgical site for an additional 2-3 minutes
4. Rinse
5. Use a clean towel to dry off
6. Do not apply lotion, perfumes, or hair products after showering

**Showering notes:** Keep the cleanser out of the eyes, ears and mouth. For external use only. Stop shaving the surgical extremity 7 days prior to surgery.

## DAY OF SURGERY

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- Complete the second shower following the same instructions and dry off with a fresh towel.
- Remember not to apply lotions or hair products.
- Please remove all jewelry, including wedding bands, and keep them at home.
- Hold all medications unless instructed to take medications in the morning of surgery or take any of the medications on the following list. You may take these with a small sip of water.
  - Beta-blockers
  - Asthma medication
  - Acid reflux medicine
  - Seizure medicine

### SURGERY CENTER

After checking in, a member of your surgical care team will bring you back to the Preoperative area where they will get you ready for surgery. A nurse will start an IV and begin to get you ready for surgery.

You will meet the anesthesia team to review your care plan. You will also meet with your surgeon and surgical site will be marked. You will be asked to sign a consent form by each of these providers. Please ask any questions that you need clarified prior to the procedure.

### OPERATING ROOM

There are many people that are part of the operating room team. The surgeon and the first assistant, the anesthesiologist or nurse anesthetist, surgical techs and nurses.

Before the operation begins, the members of the team take a safety time-out in which everyone stops what they are doing, and they go through a checklist of information for the procedure and roles of the team members. During your time in the operating room, you are continuously monitored by the team.

## ANESTHESIA

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There are different types of anesthesia that can be used with your surgery. The type of anesthesia you will receive is based on surgeon preference, the surgical procedure, your medical history, and is a collaboration between the surgeon and anesthesia team. No matter what type of anesthesia is administered to you, you are closely monitored throughout your surgery by the anesthesia team.

ANESTHESIA TYPES	HOW IT WORKS
<b>Spinal Anesthesia</b>	Spinal anesthesia is administered through a needle/catheter placed directly into the fluid of the spinal canal. This causes temporary loss of feeling and movement to the lower part of the body. Medications will be administered to make you sleepy and unaware of the happenings in the OR.
<b>General Anesthesia</b>	General anesthesia is administered into the bloodstream or can be breathed into the lungs, resulting in total unconsciousness. Patients may also have a tube placed in the windpipe to assist with breathing with this anesthesia.
<b>Nerve Block</b>	Nerve blocks are used for different total joint procedures. Most commonly in knee, shoulder, and ankle replacement. A nerve block provides additional pain relief by injecting medication near a specific nerve that provides sensation to the part of the body having surgery. As the nerve block slowly wears off, it can provide additional pain management for the first 1-2 days after your surgery.

## **AFTER SURGERY, RECOVERY ROOM**

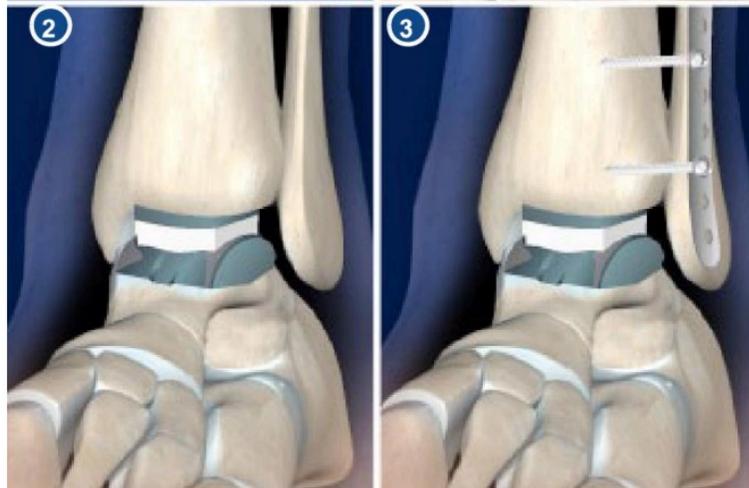
You will continue to be closely monitored while in the recovery room by a nurse. You will become more alert and may start feeling sensation return to the surgical extremity if you have a spinal. You may experience some pain or nausea, and the nurses will be able to provide you with medications to make you more comfortable.

When you are ready to sit up in a chair, the team will give you something to eat and drink and soon you will be up walking with assistance to the bathroom. The nurses will also assist you in getting dressed in regular clothes. When it is safe for you to be discharged from the surgery center, the nurses will go through the discharge instructions, and we invite your coach to be present during this education.

As you leave, a staff member will take you to your car in a wheelchair and assist you in the vehicle.

*If your discharge plan includes an overnight stay in the EXCEL Recovery Suites, more information can be found on page 31.*

TOTAL ANKLE REPLACEMENT



**Overview**

During this procedure, the surgeon removes diseased or damaged portions of the ankle. The surgeon implants an artificial ankle joint consisting of metal and plastic components. The new joint will help reduce pain and restore mobility to the ankle.

**Preparation**

In preparation for the procedure, anesthesia is administered and the ankle is cleansed with an antiseptic solution.

**Removing Damaged Bone**

The surgeon creates an incision in the front of the ankle. The joint is carefully examined. The surgeon prepares the joint for the new components by removing a portion of the tibia and the talus. The surgeon may also remove a portion of the fibula.

**Inserting the Implant**

After the joint is prepared, the surgeon inserts the components of the artificial ankle. The talar component replaces the top of the talus, and the tibial component is fitted into the end of the tibia. A plastic cup positioned between these two components will allow them to glide smoothly against each other.

**Stabilizing the Implant**

Depending on the patient's need, the surgeon may also choose to fuse the fibula and tibia. The surgeon may place bone graft between these bones to encourage them to grow together, or the surgeon may use a plate and screws.

**End of Procedure**

When the implantation is complete, the surgeon tests the new ankle joint to make sure the components fit together properly. The incision is closed with sutures or surgical staples. The ankle is bandaged and placed in a splint or a cast.

**Aftercare**

After healing, the patient will begin physical therapy. The patient will not be allowed to place weight on the ankle for at least six weeks. An ankle support may be required for up to one year after the surgery.



See the Video

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## PAIN MANAGEMENT

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You should expect to have some pain after surgery. The goal with pain management is to achieve a pain level that is “functional,” meaning that you can move around, participate in any exercises, and rest. It is not uncommon for people to feel more discomfort or swelling at home due to an increase in your activity. It’s important to use different types of pain management methods to help you recover.

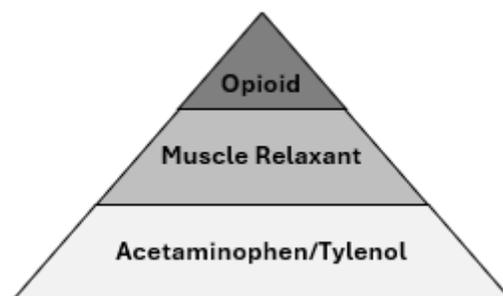
### DIFFERENT TYPES OF PAIN YOU MAY FEEL AFTER SURGERY

You may be surprised at where you experience pain after surgery. Often, the incision itself is not the only area of discomfort. You may or may not feel the following:

- Muscle pain – You may feel muscle pain in the neck, shoulders, back, leg, feet, or chest from positioning during surgery.
- Throat pain – Your throat may feel sore or scratchy.
- Movement pain – Sitting up, walking, and coughing are all important activities after surgery, but they may cause increased pain at or around the incision site.

### MEDICATIONS

You will be prescribed narcotic and non-narcotic medications to manage your pain after surgery. All patients will be prescribed Acetaminophen or Tylenol that is taken on a schedule and assists in managing muscle pain Postoperatively. Many of our physicians prescribed a muscle relaxant like Vistaril or Hydroxyzine to aid in pain management. Finally, your physician will prescribe narcotic pain medication. Narcotics like Oxycodone, Norco, or Dilaudid are used to support the scheduled pain medications with breakthrough pain. You may also be prescribed a muscle relaxant like Vistaril or Hydroxyzine to aid in pain management.



The philosophy of “treating to prevent pain” or “getting ahead of pain” and taking frequent narcotics is not a practice that we follow nor recommend. Narcotics should be used when the other medications aren’t effectively managing your pain, and you need something stronger to get comfortable and to participate in activities. Your surgeon team will discuss with you their specific expectations when it comes to Postoperative narcotics and refills.

### NON-MEDICATION WAYS TO MANAGE PAIN

- Relaxation tapes or Guided Imagery is a proven form of focused relaxation that coaches you in creating calm, peaceful images in your mind, a “mental escape.”
- Listening to your favorite music or tuning in to your favorite television show can provide a distraction from your pain or discomfort.
- Go outside if the weather allows you to. Getting some fresh air can help when you are feeling down or having a hard time managing your pain.
- Plan a social connection with your family or friends. Getting together with those you love can help with mood and can create a distraction if you are having a hard time with your recovery.

**IMPORTANT:** If you feel your pain is not being controlled to allow you to exercise and get up and move, please talk with RN coordinator. It’s important to find a pain management plan that will work for you and make sure you can participate in your recovery.

## WHAT TO EXPECT POST-OP

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Everyone's recovery from surgery is different and it can be hard not to compare your progress with friends, family, and even from your own experience with a previous surgery.

### Swelling

Swelling is normal and common after surgery and may last for several months. In the first six weeks after ankle replacement, rest, ice, and elevation are the best ways to manage Postoperative swelling. The most effective way to reduce swelling with elevation is to elevate your leg above your heart or remember "Toes above your nose!"

### Numbness

It is very common for patients to have an area of numbness around the incision. This is normal after joint replacement surgery. This area will typically decrease over 6-12 months after surgery. This is not a concern.

### Fever

A low-grade fever (less than 101 degrees) is common after surgery. You may have night sweats or chills as your body reacts to the "trauma" of surgery. If the fever does not respond to Tylenol or you have other symptoms accompanying the fever, please call the RN Coordinator.

### Body Changes

- It is normal to not have a decreased appetite after surgery. Drink plenty of fluids and focus on foods with plenty of nutrients that will help with healing. Your appetite and desire to eat will get better over time.
- You may have difficulty sleeping. This is normal and you may need to try different sleeping positions or locations in the home to find the most comfortable place to sleep.

## **MOBILITY GUIDELINES**

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There are some guidelines that you may need to follow for the first 4-6 weeks after ankle replacement. The guidelines depend on your surgeon but include weight bearing restrictions on the operative leg. Your surgeon and team will work with you so you understand any precautions you should follow during your recovery.

### **GETTING IN BED**

- Back up until you feel the bed against your legs.
- Keep your chest and head up, then reach back for bed surface.
- Scoot back on the bed until your knees feel supported.
- As you turn your body to get into bed, tighten your thigh muscles. You may need to use a leg lifter or someone to help lift your involved leg.

### **GETTING IN BED**

- Using your hand or leg lifter to support your surgical leg, slowly shift your weight to bring your legs over the edge of the bed without letting your surgical leg turn inward or outward.
- Push up with your hands into a sitting position as you gently lower your surgical leg onto the floor, making sure to keep your leg extended forward.
- Using your bed for support, press up with both hands to push yourself off the bed into a standing position.
- Make sure you do not pull up on your walker.

### **GETTING IN AND OUT OF THE TUB OR SHOWER**

Have someone nearby the first few times you use the tub or shower to provide balance assistance if needed. It might be helpful to purchase a tub chair or a tub bench. You will have a splint on your leg for the first 2 weeks after surgery. This splint cannot get wet. You can purchase splint covers from pharmacies or online that can be used with

## MOBILITY GUIDELINES

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### GETTING IN AND OUT OF A CAR

- Back up to your car seat.
- Reach back and find a stable hand hold.
- Slowly lower yourself onto the seat.
- Scoot back on the car seat. Lean back as you lift each leg into the car. You may need help lifting your involved leg.
- When getting out of the car, slide closer to the driver's seat and lean back as you lift each leg out of the car. You may need help lifting your involved leg.
- Scoot to the edge of the seat and place your feet on the street (not on the curb).
- Place your involved leg forward.
- Using the same hand holds, push up with your arms and your uninvolved leg to stand.
- Do not reach for your walking device until your balance is secure.



## GOING UP AND DOWN STAIRS WITH CRUTCHES (NON-WEIGHT-BEARING)

- Begin facing the stairs with your crutches. Make sure to stand as close to the bottom of the stairs as you can.
- Bring your nonsurgical leg up, using your crutches for support, then follow with your surgical leg, making sure not to place it on the ground to adhere to your precautions. Finally, bring your crutches up to the step.
- Continue this pattern until you reach the top.
- To go down stairs: Begin at the top of the stairs with your crutches for support. Make sure to stand with your toes close to the edge of the step.
- Lower the crutches onto the step below you. Then, keeping your surgical leg in the air, lower your nonsurgical leg to the step below, using your crutches for support.
- Continue this pattern until you reach the bottom. If you have any questions, speak with your healthcare provider.



## MOBILITY AFTER SURGERY

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### WEEK 1-2

After surgery, you will be in a hard splint that is worn until your follow up appointment. The focus of the first two weeks is to allow the bone to heal and reduce swelling. Icing and elevating are the most important things during this time. Place pillows under your leg to elevate your feet.

### WEEK 2

At your follow-up appointment, your splint will be removed and you will be fitted for a walking boot. Your surgeon may make changes to weight-bearing restrictions at this time.

Your pain levels will start to decrease, and you don't need as much, if any, pain medications.

### WEEK 4-6

Continue to ice and elevate and manage your swelling.

At six weeks, your incision is healed, and it would be safe for you to submerge in water like a pool or hot tub. Some surgeons may have a specific timeline for when you can return to these activities.

### WEEK 6

You will see your surgeon team again for a follow up appointment and weight-bearing restrictions are generally lifted at this time. You will begin working with a physical therapist on strength, mobility, and range of motion of the ankle.

### WEEK 7 AND BEYOND

Continue working with physical therapy. Your therapist will provide you with exercises to do at home. We encourage you to continue these for a year after surgery because you will continue to see improvement with time.

Think of your recovery like a rollercoaster ride, in the beginning you experience high highs and low lows. The longer you are on the rollercoaster, the ups and downs are smaller, but the ride continues. Progress and improvement will follow a similar pattern.

## CONSTIPATION

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Constipation is a common side effect from narcotic pain medication. Another cause of constipation following surgery is lack of activity, which is another reason why walking is important in your recovery. You can reduce your risk of becoming constipated by staying hydrated, eating a good diet high in fiber, and using over-the-counter stool softeners.

### OVER-THE-COUNTER TREATMENT OPTIONS FOR CONSTIPATION

We recommend that all patients take Senna-S and Miralax while taking narcotics. Below is a list of OTC medications that can be used to treat constipation, beginning with the least aggressive to the most aggressive. Please use caution if combining these OTC medications, the onset of the medications can take several hours to take effect.

**Docusate (COLACE)** – a stool softener

Usual dose: take 1 tablet by mouth two times a day

**Polyethylene Glycol 3350 (MIRALAX)** – a gentle laxative

Usual dose: Add 17 grams (fill to cap line) to 4-8 ounces of beverage. Drink once a day

**Senna (SEKOKOT)** – a natural stimulant

Usual dose: take 1-2 tablets by mouth two times a day

**Senna-Docusate (SEKOKOT-S)** – A combination of a stool softener with a natural stimulant Usual dose: take 1 tablet by mouth two times a day

**Magnesium Hydroxide (MILK OF MAGNESIA)** – a laxative

Usual dose: 2-4 tablespoons at bedtime

**Bisacodyl (DULCOLAX) tablet** – a stronger stimulant laxative

Usual dose: take 1 tablet by mouth daily

**Bisacodyl (DULCOLAX) suppository** – a stronger stimulant laxative

Usual dose: insert 1 suppository into the rectum daily

**Magnesium Citrate (CITROMA)** – a stronger laxative that usually works within several hours Usual dose: drink 1/2 - 1 bottle once a day

**Other things you can do to prevent and treat constipation:** drinking water, prune or white grape juice, eat high-fiber foods like popcorn, crunchy vegetables, and fruit, take a high-fiber supplement.

## RECOGNIZING AND PREVENTING COMPLICATIONS

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### SURGICAL SITE INFECTION

A surgical site infection is an infection within the part of the body where surgery took place. If you have any concerns that you may have a surgical site infection, contact your EXCEL coordinator or your surgeon team immediately.

#### Things that Can Put You at Risk for an Infection:

- Poor nutrition
- Diabetes
- Obesity
- Smoking
- Conditions that affect how your immune system responds
- Age
- Infections in other areas, like a urinary tract infection or an infected wound on another part of your body.

#### What are the Signs and Symptoms of a Surgical Site Infection?

- Drainage or cloudy fluid from the incision/surgical site
- Pain or tenderness
- Localized swelling
- Redness
- Heat from surgical area
- Fever 101.0 degrees or higher

## Discharge Instructions

- Make sure that you and your coach understand your discharge instructions and how to care for your surgical incision. Please ask questions!
- Know who to contact for any questions and concerns regarding your surgery.

## Postoperative Incision Care

- Wash your hands before and after you change your dressing.
- Healthcare providers must wash their hands before and after examining you. If you don't see them wash their hands, ask them to do so.
- Family and friends must wash their hands before and after visiting. They should **NEVER** touch the surgical incision or dressing.
- Keep animals away from your incision.

## Dental Work

- Make sure dental work is up to date prior to surgery.
- No dental work should be done for 3 months following your surgery, this includes cleaning and dental procedures.
- Following surgery, your surgeon may prescribe antibiotics prior to any dental work to prevent infections.
- Inform your dentist that you received a total joint when scheduling any dental appointment.

## DEEP VEIN THROMBOSIS (DVT)

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Deep vein thrombosis (DVT) is a blood clot that forms in a vein deep in the body. Most deep vein blood clots occur in the lower leg or thigh. It also can occur in other parts of the body.

A blood clot in a deep vein can break off, travel through the bloodstream to the lungs, and block blood flow. This condition is called pulmonary embolism (PE). PE is a very serious condition that can cause death.

### What are the Signs and Symptoms of a DVT?

- Swelling of the leg or along a vein in the leg.
- Pain or tenderness in the leg.
- Increased warmth in the area of the leg that's swollen or in pain.
- Red or discolored skin on the leg.

Other symptoms may relate to pulmonary embolism and require immediate emergency treatment. **Call 911 or proceed directly to the ER if any of these symptoms occur:**

- Unexplained shortness of breath.
- Pain with deep breathing.
- Coughing up blood.

### Preventing a DVT

- Take any medication you are instructed to take to thin your blood.
- Stay active after surgery.
- Exercise your lower leg muscles during long trips in a car, bus, or plane.
- Be sure to talk to your surgeon about traveling after surgery.

## BREATHING EXERCISES

Deep breathing, coughing, and using your incentive spirometer may speed your recovery and lower the risk of lung problems, such as pneumonia. Learn the following exercises and practice them prior to surgery.

### Deep Breathing

To deep breathe properly, you must use your abdominal muscles, as well as your chest muscles. Breathe in through your nose as deeply as possible. Hold your breath for 5-10 seconds. Let your breath out through your mouth, slowly and completely. As you breathe with pursed lips (like blowing out a candle), your stomach should be going in. Exhale twice as long as you inhale. Rest and then repeat these steps with 10 repetitions.

### Coughing

To help you cough: Take a slow deep breath. Breathe in through your nose and concentrate on fully expanding your chest. Breathe out through your mouth and concentrate on feeling your chest sink downward and inward. Take a second breath in the same manner. Take a third breath. This time hold your breath for a moment and then cough vigorously. As you cough, concentrate on forcing all the air out of your chest. Repeat this exercise two more times.

### Incentive Spirometer

An incentive spirometer is a hand-held breathing exercise device to help you inflate your lungs after surgery. This will help to keep your lungs healthy after surgery. The Incentive Spirometer will be provided to you in the surgery center and you will have a chance to practice using it with the nurse.

1. Sit upright in a chair and hold the device upright in both hands
2. Place the mouthpiece in your mouth and seal your lips around it.
3. **Breathe in** slowly and deeply. The piston should rise inside the column.
4. When you've reached your full inhale capacity, hold your breath for three seconds.
5. Exhale normally, then rest. If you start to feel dizzy or lightheaded, take a break.
6. Reset the indicator to the level that you reached during your best effort.



Repeat these steps 10 times every hour that you are awake or as often as your provider tells you to.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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### **When can I drive?**

Patients typically can start driving 4-6 weeks after surgery. If you have an automatic transmission and surgery on your left leg, you may be allowed to drive sooner. Consult your surgeon prior to driving. Keep in mind that you cannot drive while taking narcotic pain medication.

### **When can I return to work?**

Return to work varies depending on your recovery and type of work you do. Typical return to work is in 4-6 weeks.

### **When will I be able to shower or take a bath?**

The nurse will review specific showering instructions with you in your discharge materials. Patients can generally begin showering the day after surgery. No submerging in bathtubs until 6 weeks after surgery.

### **Is it normal to feel a little depressed after surgery?**

It is not uncommon for patients to have feelings of depression after surgery. Contributing factors can be limited mobility, discomfort, increased dependency on others, and/or medication side effects.

### **Is bruising normal after surgery?**

Bruising is normal after surgery. Bleeding occurs after surgery and tracks along the tissue of your leg resulting in bruising in different areas of your leg. The bruising will gradually go away on its own as the body reabsorbs the blood.

### **Are blisters normal after surgery?**

Some patients may develop blisters around their incision that may leak clear fluid but eventually a scab will form and they will heal. Contact your EXCEL coordinator or surgeon with concerns. Do not pop the blisters and allow them to heal on their own.

### **When can I travel?**

Speak with your surgeon about when it is safe to fly after surgery. We recommend that you walk around and stretch your legs every hour during travel and perform ankle pump exercises when sitting. We no longer provide joint replacement cards and recommend notifying the TSA you have had a joint replacement.

### **When can I return to having sex?**

Healing of the implant and bone can take up to 6 weeks. Discuss concerns with your surgeon or physical therapist at your follow up appointment to identify when it is safe for you to resume sexual activities.

## PREOPERATIVE EXERCISES

Outcomes are highly attributed to your participation in exercises before and after surgery. If an exercise is causing pain, discontinue those exercises and focus on the ones you can perform. Perform these exercises for both legs for better surgical preparation. Exercises can be performed on a bed or exercise table. Do not perform them on the floor unless you are safe and able to do so prior to surgery. If you have questions about exercises, you can contact our EXCEL PT Manager Nichole at [NicholeMeyer@tcomn.com](mailto:NicholeMeyer@tcomn.com).



### SUPINE SHORT ARC QUAD

Reps: 10-15 | Sets: 2 | Hold: 5 sec | Frequency: 1x/day

#### Setup

Begin lying on your back, legs straight.

#### Movement

Slowly pump your ankles by bending and straightening them.

#### Tip

Try to keep the rest of your legs relaxed while you move your ankles.



### GLUTEAL SETS

Reps: 10-15 | Sets: 2 | Hold: 5 sec | Frequency: 1x/day

#### Setup

Begin lying on your back on a bed or flat surface.

#### Movement

Tighten your buttock muscles, hold, then relax and repeat.

#### Tip

Make sure not to arch your back and do not hold your breath during the exercise.



### SUPINE HIP ABDUCTION

Reps: 10-15 | Sets: 2 | Hold: 5 sec | Frequency: 2x/day

#### Setup

On your back with your legs straight.

#### Movement

Move one leg out to the side as far as you can without bending at your

#### Tip

Make sure to keep your back on the ground and do not move your upper body during the exercise.



### ACTIVE STRAIGHT LEG RAISE WITH QUAD SET

Reps: 10-15 | Sets: 2 | Frequency: 2x/day

#### Setup

Begin lying on your back with one knee bent and your other leg straight.

#### Movement

Squeeze the thigh muscles in your straight leg and flex your foot, then slowly lift your leg until it is parallel with your other thigh. Lower your leg back to the starting position and repeat.

#### Tip

Make sure not to arch your low back.

**SUPINE QUAD SET**

Reps: 10-15 | Sets: 2 | Hold: 5 sec | Frequency: 2x/day

**Setup**

On your back with one knee bent and your other leg straight with your knee resting on a towel roll.

**Movement**

Gently squeeze your thigh muscles, pushing the back of your knee down into the towel.

**Tip**

Make sure to keep your back flat against the bed or table during the exercise.

**SUPINE ACTIVE STRAIGHT LEG RAISE**

Reps: 10-15 | Sets: 2 | Frequency: 2x/day

**Setup**

Begin lying on your back with one knee bent and your other leg straight.

**Movement**

Engaging your thigh muscles, slowly lift your straight leg until it is parallel with your other thigh, then lower it back to the starting position and repeat.

**Tip**

Make sure to keep your leg straight and do not let your back arch during the exercise.



Disclaimer: This program provides exercises related to your condition that you can perform at home. As there is a risk of injury with any activity, use caution when performing exercises. If you experience any pain or discomfort, discontinue the exercises and contact your health care provider.

## EXCEL RECOVERY SUITE

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Your surgeon may have recommended that you stay overnight in the EXCEL Recovery Suites following surgery. Your physician would have discussed this plan at your surgical consult.

### LOCATIONS

**Blaine Recovery Suites**

11225 Ulysses St NE, 2nd Floor  
Blaine, MN 55434  
Phone: 763-302-2534

**Edina Recovery Suites**

4100 Minnesota Dr  
Edina, MN 55435  
Phone: 952-995-8750

**Two Twelve Recovery Suites**

111 Hundertmark Rd, Suite 307N  
Chaska, MN 55318  
Phone: 952-857-0330

**Plymouth Recovery Suites**

16800 37th Pl N, Suite 120  
Plymouth, MN 55446  
Phone: 763-302-2750

**Eagan Recovery Suites**

2611 Nordic Way  
Eagan, MN 55121  
Phone: 952-846-2225

### GETTING FROM THE SURGERY CENTER TO THE RECOVERY SUITE

An EXCEL RN will meet you in the recovery room once you are ready for discharge.

- If the Surgery Center and Recovery Suite are in the same building:
  - The EXCEL RN will take you to the Recovery Suite in a wheelchair.
- If they are in different buildings:
  - The EXCEL RN and a driver will transport you in a wheelchair-accessible van to the Recovery Suite.

Once you arrive at the Recovery Suite, your nurse will do a thorough assessment and visit with you about the goals for your stay. Your family and your coach are welcome to visit you. It is not required for someone to stay overnight, however, if you would like to have a guest stay, we can accommodate one person.

## **DURING YOUR STAY IN THE RECOVERY SUITE**

Upon arriving, the team will get you settled into the recliner and oriented to the room. If you are hungry, they will bring you something to eat. All rooms are private with private bathrooms with space for a visitor to comfortably sit or stay the night if desired. However, it is not required for someone to stay overnight with you.

The team includes a registered nurse who will focus on pain management, POST-OP assessment, and patient education. We keep your IV in place from the surgery center to access for administering some medications. The physical therapist will work with you on walking, home exercises, and practicing the stairs. They will make sure that you understand any restrictions that you might have after surgery. The nursing assistant supports the nurse and therapist by walking in the halls with you and making sure that you are comfortable with ice and warm blankets.

Your surgeon will check in with you during your stay by either coming to see you in person or talking to you on the phone. We also have an Internal Medicine provider that is available should there be any non-orthopedic medical concerns during your stay.

## **CARE DELIVERY**

EXCEL Recovery Suites delivers care under a homecare license that is owned and managed by TCO. You will be asked to complete some paperwork for your stay. If you are interested in viewing these documents prior to surgery, they can be found on our website or ask your EXCEL RN Coordinator how to access this.

It can cause some confusion when patients hear the word “homecare” because it doesn’t mean that people will be coming your home to provide you with the care. The Department of Health views the suite as your “home” during the overnight stay.

## **MORNING AFTER SURGERY**

Patients are ready to discharge home the following morning between 10-11am. We invite your coach to arrive at 8am so they can participate and watch your morning physical therapy session and listen to the discharge information provided by the nurse. The discharge instructions will include new medications, including medications for pain and when to take them, activity precautions or restrictions, and symptoms we would like you to report to the surgeon.

Staff will escort you down to your car and assist you in getting into your vehicle safely.

## PACKING CHECKLIST FOR EXCEL RECOVERY SUITE STAY

- Home prescription medications in original bottles from the pharmacy
- Loose, comfortable clothing
- Supportive Tennis Shoes
- Toiletries
- Eyeglasses/Contacts Case
- CPAP if you have Sleep Apnea
- Glucometer if you check blood sugar
- Cell phone & Charger
- Headphones or ear buds



DAY 5 AT HOME							
MEDICATION	DOSE	TIME OF DAY					

DAY 6 AT HOME							
MEDICATION	DOSE	TIME OF DAY					

DAY 7 AT HOME							
MEDICATION	DOSE	TIME OF DAY					



**HEALTHCARE IS  
YOUR CHOICE.  
CHOOSE TCO.**

### DID YOU KNOW?

If you're treated in the emergency room, you can request a TCO physician for your follow-up care.

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**If you need to go to an emergency room:**

- Ask for a TCO physician for your follow-up care.
  - No referral required to return to TCO.
  - We accept all major insurance plans.
- 

**Thank You for Trusting TCO**



## ORTHOPEDIC URGENT CARE OR ER? HOW TO CHOOSE.

### TCO URGENT CARE

**Best for common orthopedic injuries:**

- Sprains, strains, and sports injuries
- Suspected fractures (bone not visible)
- Muscle, bone, joint, or tendon pain
- Sudden pain that makes walking difficult
- Concussion symptoms without vomiting or fainting

- ✓ Walk-in access to orthopedic specialists
- ✓ Shorter waits than the ER
- ✓ Lower cost than the ER

### EMERGENCY ROOM

**Go to the ER for:**

- Bone visible or sticking through the skin
- Burns
- Concussion with loss of consciousness or repeated vomiting
- Deep cuts or heavy bleeding
- Severe deformity or major trauma

**Ready to go to TCO?**  
Check wait times for all  
Urgent Care locations.





ORTHOPEDIC SURGERY & RECOVERY  
TWIN CITIES ORTHOPEDICS

### Preoperative History & Physical

**Please fax to 763-302-2705**

Dear Provider, (form not to be completed by the patient)  
Surgery will be completed in an ambulatory surgery center. We ask that the following labs are completed for our patients within 30 days of surgery:

- CBC
- BMP
- EKG for anyone >65 or has a cardiac hx or cardiac medications 6 months
- A1C within the last three months with diabetes dx

Thank you!

Patient Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Surgeon: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Surgery: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Exam: \_\_\_\_\_

PREOP DIAGNOSIS / REASON FOR SURGERY: \_\_\_\_\_

SURGERY / PROCEDURES INDICATED: \_\_\_\_\_

HISTORY OF PRESENT ILLNESS: \_\_\_\_\_

Has a member of your Family or a Partner (now or in the past) intimidated, hurt, manipulated or controlled you in any way?

Yes  No Referral needed:  Yes  No

#### PAST HISTORY:

Surgical (including any anesthetic problems): \_\_\_\_\_

Medical:  CAD  HTN  Valvular heart disease  Dysrhythmia  CHF  Pulmonary disease  
 Other: \_\_\_\_\_

#### MEDICATIONS (include herbals and vitamins):

Aspirin / NSAID use in last 10 days:  Yes  No Steroid use in last 10 days:  Yes  No

Plavix use in last 7 days:  Yes  No

Medications	Dose	Frequency	Medications	Dose	Frequency

ALLERGIES: \_\_\_\_\_  Latex  Tape INTOLERANCES: \_\_\_\_\_

SOCIAL HISTORY: ( tobacco,  alcohol, or  drug use): \_\_\_\_\_

Health Care Directive:  Yes  No

Nutrition Status: \_\_\_\_\_

Learning Barriers: \_\_\_\_\_

#### FAMILY HISTORY:

FH of anesthesia reactions  Yes  No (if Yes, comment): \_\_\_\_\_ FH of bleeding disorder  Yes  No

#### REVIEW OF SYSTEMS (any history or symptoms of the following):

Yes	No	Comments if Yes	Yes	No	Comments if Yes
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	General Appearance: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Diabetes/Endocrine: _____
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Skin: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Cardiovascular: _____
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Head: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Respiratory: _____
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Eyes: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	GI/Hepatitis: _____
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ears: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Urinary: _____
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Nose: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Neurological: _____
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mouth and Throat: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Hematologic: _____
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Infectious Disease: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Musculoskeletal: _____
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Psychological: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Genito-reproductive: _____

# Preoperative History & Physical

Phone: 952-456-7300

Fax: 763-302-2705

Patient Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## PHYSICAL EXAM:

Height: \_\_\_\_\_ Weight: \_\_\_\_\_ BMI: \_\_\_\_\_ Blood Pressure: \_\_\_\_\_  
Pulse: \_\_\_\_\_ Respirations: \_\_\_\_\_ LMP: \_\_\_\_\_ Women of child bearing age need a pregnancy test:  
Results \_\_\_\_\_

	<u>Normal</u>	<u>Abnormal - describe</u>		<u>Normal</u>	<u>Abnormal - describe</u>
General Appearance	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	Heart	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Skin	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	Abdomen	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Head	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	Genitourinary	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Eyes	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	Vaginal	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Ears	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	Rectal	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Nose	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	Musculoskeletal	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Mouth and Throat	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	Lymphatics	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Neck	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	Blood Vessels	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Thorax	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	Neurological	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Breasts	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	Other Findings/Diagnosis:	_____	_____
Lungs	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____			

## LAB / RADIOLOGY RESULTS:

Hgb: \_\_\_\_\_ PLT: \_\_\_\_\_ INR: \_\_\_\_\_ BUN/Creat: \_\_\_\_\_

CXR: \_\_\_\_\_ (New or unstable cardiopulmonary disease)

Electrolytes: K<sup>+</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (Digoxin or diuretic use, or renal disease)

If Diabetic, Glucose: \_\_\_\_\_

EKG: \_\_\_\_\_ (Enclosed copy) (Consider age guidelines: patients  $\geq 60$  or patients with hypertension, diabetes, peripheral vascular disease, chest pain, CAD if not done in last 6 months)

ECHO: \_\_\_\_\_ Stress Testing: \_\_\_\_\_

PFT: FEV<sub>1</sub> \_\_\_\_\_ FVC \_\_\_\_\_

Other Test Results: \_\_\_\_\_

## IMPRESSION / ACTIVE PROBLEMS:

- CAD: Severity/functional status: \_\_\_\_\_  Stable  Needs preop evaluation  
Most recent evaluation/intervention: \_\_\_\_\_
- HTN:  Well controlled  Other \_\_\_\_\_
- Valvular heart disease (or undefined murmur): Lesions/severity \_\_\_\_\_  Stable  Needs preop evaluation  
Last Echo: \_\_\_\_\_
- Dysrhythmia  Atrial Fibrillation/Flutter  Rate controlled  Other: \_\_\_\_\_  
 History of ventricular dysrhythmia \_\_\_\_\_
- CHF (or history of): Etiology: \_\_\_\_\_  Well compensated  Other: \_\_\_\_\_  
Last Echo: \_\_\_\_\_
- Pulmonary disease:  COPD: \_\_\_\_\_  Restrictive  Stable  Other: \_\_\_\_\_  
Last PFT: \_\_\_\_\_
- Sleep Apnea History of: \_\_\_\_\_
- Other pertinent diagnoses: \_\_\_\_\_

**PLAN:**  Patient's active problems diagnostically and therapeutically optimized for planned procedure.

Other \_\_\_\_\_

Provider Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Print Provider Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Clinic Name and Number: \_\_\_\_\_