Arthritis - Pseudogout
(Calcium Pyrophosphate Deposition Disease)

Pseudogout is an arthritis that causes pain, swelling and inflammation in a joint. This is due to the presence of calcium pyrophosphate crystals in the joint fluid. Pseudogout often follows minor injuries. It may also be associated with a history of gout or high calcium levels in the blood. The knee is the most frequently involved joint. X-rays may show calcium deposits on the joint surface. Acute attacks usually develop rapidly over just one day. A joint fluid exam may be needed to confirm the diagnosis.

Treatment is similar to gout. You should ice, rest and raise the affected limb until the swelling and pain are better. Anti-inflammatory drugs are usually effective in reducing symptoms within hours to days. Please call your caregiver if you are not better in 2-3 days.

SEEK IMMEDIATE MEDICAL CARE IF:

- You have more serious symptoms such as a fever, skin rash, diarrhea, vomiting, headache or other joint pains.

Document Released: 01/25/2006 Document Re-Released: 03/16/2010
ExitCare® Patient Information ©2011 ExitCare, LLC.