Cancer of the Colon, Treatment by Resection
Care After Surgery

Please read the instructions outlined below and refer to this sheet in the next few weeks. These discharge instructions provide you with general information on caring for yourself after you leave the hospital. Your caregiver may also give you specific instructions. While your treatment has been planned according to the most current medical practices available, unavoidable complications occasionally occur. If you have any problems or questions after discharge, please call your caregiver.

HOME CARE INSTRUCTIONS

- It will be normal to be sore for a couple weeks following surgery. See your caregiver if this seems to be getting worse rather than better.
- Take prescribed medication as directed. Only take over-the-counter or prescription medicines for pain, discomfort, or fever as directed by your caregiver.
- Use showers for bathing, until seen or do as instructed.
- Follow your caregiver's instructions as to activities, exercises, physical therapy, and driving a car.
- Change dressings if necessary or as directed.
- You may apply ice to the surgical site for 15 to 20 minutes each hour while awake for the first couple days following surgery. Put the ice in a plastic bag and place a towel between the bag of ice and your skin.
- You may resume normal diet and activities as directed or allowed.
- Avoid lifting until you are instructed otherwise.
- If you have stitches, make an appointment to have them removed by your caregiver when instructed.

SEEK MEDICAL CARE IF:

- There is increased bleeding (more than a small spot) from the wound.
- You notice redness, swelling, or increasing pain in the wound.
- Pus is coming from wound.
- An unexplained oral temperature above 102º F (38.9º C) develops.
- You notice a bad smell coming from the wound or dressing.

SEEK IMMEDIATE MEDICAL CARE IF:

- You develop a rash.
- You have difficulty breathing
- You develop any reaction or side effects to medications given.

Document Released: 01/29/2007 Document Re-Released: 03/16/2010
ExitCare® Patient Information ©2011 ExitCare, LLC.