Peripheral Arterial Disease of the Legs
Care After Surgery

Please read the instructions outlined below. Refer to these instructions for the next few weeks. These discharge instructions provide you with general information on caring for yourself after surgery. 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.
- 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 as instructed. Pat incision sites dry after shower, do not rub.
- Elevate your legs when sitting down and avoid standing for prolonged periods of time. This will help with pain and swelling.
- Change dressings if necessary or as directed.
- You may resume normal diet and activities as directed or allowed.
- Avoid lifting or driving until you are instructed otherwise. Never drive while taking pain medicine.
- Make an appointment to see your caregiver for stitches (*suture*) or staple removal when instructed.
- You may use ice on your incision for twenty minutes four times per day for the first two days.

SEEK MEDICAL CARE IF:

- You have increased bleeding from wound.
- You see redness, swelling, or have increasing pain in wound.
- You have pus coming from your wound.
- You develop an unexplained temperature over 101° F (38.3° C).
- You have a foul smell coming from the wound or dressing.
- Your leg becomes numb or tingles.

SEEK IMMEDIATE MEDICAL CARE IF:

- You develop a rash.
- You have difficulty breathing, feel short of breath or develop chest pain.
- You develop lightheadedness or feel faint.
- You develop any reaction or side effects to medications given.
- You develop pain or swelling in your leg or your leg turns cold and blue.

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