

## **Total Joint Patient Information**

You have elected to have a total joint replacement. Here are a few of the things we would like you to understand as you proceed into surgery.

- A. Although joint replacement surgery is generally a low-risk procedure, surgical risks include but are not limited to:
- 1. Infection**
  - 2. Blood loss requiring a blood transfusion**
  - 3. Blood Clot (DVT)**
  - 4. Anesthesia risks (this will be covered by your anesthesia provider at your surgical facility)**
  - 5. Neurovascular injury with permanent numbness, tingling, weakness, or loss of function**
  - 6. Leg length discrepancy after total hip replacement**
  - 7. Death**
- B. Due to the post operative risk of a blood clot (DVT), typically you will be started on a blood thinner (Lovenox Injections) after surgery during your hospital stay. You will start taking 325 mg Aspirin (Oral Blood Thinner) the day after discharge from the hospital. Duration will be 42 days (6 weeks) for total knee replacement and total hip replacements and 21 days (3 weeks) for total shoulder replacement. Patient's on Coumadin, Xarelto or any other anti-coagulation medication prior to surgery will resume on that blood thinner post operatively and will be managed by their primary care provider.
- C. After your surgery, we recommend you do **NOT** have any dental visits/cleaning for 3 months. Also, due to the artificial joint, you will need to take a prophylactic antibiotic 1 hour BEFORE any future dental visits or other dental surgical procedures to minimize your risk on an infected total joint for the first **18 months post operative or lifetime if you are immunocompromised**. Please contact our team to get a script for the antibiotic.
- D. **Total Knee & Total Shoulder Replacements:** Physical Therapy is very important during the post operative period and will begin usually the day after surgery while you are still in the hospital. Therapy will continue on an outpatient basis at the location of your choice 2-3 times a week for a month to maximize your range of motion, function and strength.

**\*If you have any questions or concerns, contact Hanna at 651-351-2653\***