# SHOULDER SUPERIOR CAPSULAR RECONSTRUCTION PT PROTOCOL

| PHASE 1  
First 6 Weeks  
(0-6)  
1-2 Sessions/week  
Begin after 4 weeks | BRACE INSTRUCTIONS AND RESTRICTIONS | RANGE OF MOTION GOALS | PT EXERCISES/NOTES |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| - Shoulder immobilizer x 6 weeks full time except hygiene and PT exercises  
- No AROM x 6 weeks  
- Avoid cross body adduction  
- Avoid anterior capsular stretch and extension | - Begin PROM after 4 weeks (Goal of 90 deg FF, 45 deg Abduction, 45 deg ER, 20 deg Extension, 45 deg ABER by 6 weeks) | - Elbow/wrist ROM exercises, grip  
- Codman’s, posterior capsule mobilizations, closed chain scapula exercises after 4 weeks |

| PHASE 2  
Second 6 Weeks  
(6-12)  
1-2 Sessions/week | - Out of brace  
- Avoid resisted rotator cuff exercises of the shoulder until 8 weeks  
- Do not push through “sharp” pain with ROM exercises | - Continue with PROM to reach full ROM and appropriate joint mobilizations (Goal of 135 deg FF, 135 deg Abduction, 90 deg ABER, 45 deg ABIR by 10 weeks)  
- Advance to AAROM/AROM at 6 weeks | - Wands/pulleys/wall climbs  
- Supine AAROM, advance to standing AROM  
- Begin deltoid/rotator cuff isometrics at 8 weeks  
- Begin resistive exercises for scapular stabilizers, biceps, triceps, and rotator cuff at 8 weeks |

| PHASE 3  
Third 6 Weeks  
(12-18)  
Sessions once/week or once every other week | - Full AROM in all planes | - Progress PREs (light weight, high repetition)  
- Emphasize external rotation and latissimus eccentrics, dynamic stabilization  
- Neuromuscular and proprioceptive training  
- Aerobic conditioning and preparation for return to work/sport and ADLs  
- Cycling and running as tolerated |
| PHASE 4 18 Weeks + |  | - Aggressive scapular stabilization and eccentric strengthening  
- Begin plyometric exercises  
- Improve neuromuscular control and shoulder proprioception  
- Advance to home exercise program 3 times/week and daily shoulder stretching  
- Return to activity after 6 months once clear by MD |
| Sessions as needed Transition to home exercise program | - Sport and work specific exercises |  |

This protocol is intended for the purposes of guiding post-surgical or post-injury rehabilitation exercises and goals. These guidelines may be interpreted by a certified physical or occupation therapist and tailored to meet patient specific goals and expectations. Other specific modifications may be made by Dr. Butterfield depending on adjuvant surgical procedures, surgical findings, or rehabilitation progress.

Please fax initial physical therapy assessment and progress notes to Dr. Butterfield at 763-717-4139. You may direct questions regarding this protocol or patient progress to our office at 763-786-9543.