

## **Autologous Chondrocyte Implantation (MACI) – Knee (Patellofemoral)**

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The surgeon may specify on the referral any specific requests or deviations that fall outside the scope of this protocol, including if *deceleration* of these time frames is desired.

Phase I	Phase II	Phase III	Phase IV
(Weeks 0 – 2)	(Weeks 3 – 6)	(Weeks 6 – 12)	(Weeks 13 – 28+)
PRECAUTIONS PWB (50%) with crutches required Brace locked in extension  GOALS Protect chondrocytes/graft Protect surgical knee Limit pain and inflammation Restore leg control  CLINICAL CARE Swelling/Wound management Cryotherapy  POSSIBLE EXERCISES PROM CPM begin 48 hours after surgery CPM recommended to begin at 0-45° 2-4 hrs/day with progression 15° per week as tolerated Ankle pumps Quad, hamstring, gluteal isometrics  ENCOURAGE ROM is focus 4 hrs/day for first 6 weeks	PRECAUTIONS  WBAT with crutches  Brace locked in extension until 6 weeks postop  GOALS  Allow healing of tissue and bone  Decrease pain and inflammation  Progressively increase ROM  CLINICAL CARE  Swelling management  NMES  Light scar mobilization when wound closed  CPM continued  EXERCISES  PROM for flexion and extension  Passive and active heel slides  Straight leg raise activities  Basic proprioceptive activities  NMES to improve quad function  CRITERIA to advance  6 weeks from surgery  ROM Flexion: > 90°	PRECAUTIONS  Watch for patellofemoral pain  WBAT with crutches as needed to control effusion  Brace discontinued  CLINICAL CARE  Work on normalizing gait  May begin pool therapy in chest deep water as indicated  Careful patellar mobilization in all directions  CPM discontinued  EXERCISES  Stationary biking without resistance beginning recumbent and progress to upright  Core exercises  CRITERIA to advance  Negotiate stairs normally  Restore limb confidence  Normal gait mechanics  Single leg stance control w/o UE support  Effusion managed  Full ROM	PRECAUTIONS  FWB  Watch hip/knee alignment with single leg squatting  No jumping, cutting, or sprinting until cleared  Hold on return to run until 7-9 month and quad limb symmetry index (LSI) is > 80% and no effusion  CLINICAL CARE  Blood Flow Restriction Training for atrophy as needed  Exercises based on patient demands and goals  EXERCISES 13-20 weeks  Leg press (double progress to single)  Advance CKC strengthening single leg without dynamic valgus  Step downs  Seated knee extension (90-45°)  Lunges  Begin light hamstring strengthening 20+ weeks  Progress cycling  Rowing as tolerated 28+ weeks  Running: initiate walk-jog program when the following criteria are met:  80% quad LSI  No Effusion  Jumping: double progress to single leg unstable surfaces  Agility drills/plyometrics  CRITERIA to advance  Return to sport or heavy work cleared by MD