



**John Nash, MD**  
Total Joint Specialist and  
General Orthopaedics

## **Total Knee Arthroplasty**

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### **Dr. Nash's Comprehensive Surgical Guide**

Your Complete Resource for Preoperative,  
Intraoperative, and Postoperative Care



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# Table of Contents

<b>Preparation before surgery</b>	<b>3</b>
Preparing your home	3
Dental services	3
Rehab education class	3
Medical Clearance	3
Pretesting	4
Holding medications	4
Bowel Management	5
Prevention of Urinary Retention	5
<b>The Evening Before Surgery</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>The Morning of Surgery</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>After Surgery</b>	
Discharge	7
Compression stockings QR Code	7
Post-Operative Medication	8
Bowel Management	9
Blood Clot Prevention	10
Physical Therapy	10
Home Equipment	10
Post-Operative Dressing	11
Post-Operative Clinic Appointments	11
Driving	12
Antibiotics after Total Joint Surgery	12
<b>Important Contacts</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>CSMO Physical Therapy Locations</b>	<b>14</b>



# Preparation Before Surgery

## Preparing Your Home for Surgery

- Discuss with your family who will be available to assist you for the first several days when you return home after your surgery.
- Frequently used items should be placed on a surface that is easy to reach. Put a bag on the front of your walker so you do not have to carry items when walking.
- Put away any throw rugs and clutter so that you have less risk of tripping.
- Remove any other items that may be a tripping hazard such as electrical cords.
- Use non-skid mats or decals in the shower or tub, use a plastic non-slip shower stool if you need to sit down.
- Arrange for assistance with pets. Have someone else available to walk your dog, especially if they are leash-walked. Be aware of where your pets are, discourage them from jumping on you. Your assistive device, such as a walker or cane, can sometimes be a deterrent.
- Have a firm chair that has side arms. You will be taught in therapy how to use the side arms to stand up and sit down. Avoid soft or low chairs, as they are difficult to get out of at times. A good height for chairs and toilets is 18 inches from the floor.

## Dental Services

- Have dental work and teeth cleanings taken care of at least 3 weeks prior to your surgery. Infected teeth and/or gums can cause your new total joint to become infected. IF YOU ARE CONCERNED, SEE YOUR DENTIST PRIOR TO SURGERY TO DISCUSS.

## Rehab Education

- Plan on attending a rehab education class before surgery. This class will provide you with education and prepare you for recovery. The surgery scheduler will arrange this class when you pick your surgery date.
- You will be provided with information on machines to help ice your knee after surgery. You are not required to get one of these devices. Dr. Nash does believe it is very helpful with pain and swelling in the postoperative period, but certainly not necessary. Ice packs can work well but are less convenient. There are three options: purchase an ice machine directly from our office, rent a machine for four weeks through Kinex, or purchase a machine on Amazon. Insurance does not cover the cost of these machines.

## Medical Clearance

- You may be required to obtain medical clearance from your primary care physician or other specialists based on your past medical history. Medical issues that have not been treated for a while can potentially lead to complications or delay your surgery. The goal is to have your health optimized preoperatively.



- If have surgery at **CSMO Surgery Center**: Please enter your medical history online by completing the ONE MEDICAL PASSPORT, located at <https://sportmed.com/pre-registration/>. All information is kept confidential and will be thoroughly reviewed by your medical team.
- **Diabetic Patients**: It is a national recommendation for elective surgery for your A1C to be less than 8.0 to be considered for surgery.

## Pre-Testing

- At least one week prior to surgery, the CSMO Surgery Center or the hospital pretesting department will contact you. They will discuss your past medical history, your medication list and set up your appointment for pretesting. Pretesting will consist of lab work and other testing such as an EKG, chest x-ray, urinalysis, etc. This is mandatory prior to surgery. You will be contacted if your results are abnormal.
- If you have not heard from pretesting seven days prior to surgery – please contact them:

**CSMO Surgery Center: 423-698-6871, option #1**

**Memorial Pretesting: 423-495-4417**

## Holding Medications Prior to Surgery

Prior to surgery, certain medications will be stopped. The exact timing depends on several factors, but if they are not held, your surgery will potentially be delayed, rescheduled or cancelled. This list is not comprehensive, therefore please contact us with any specific medication questions. Typically, at the preoperative call or visit, all your medications are reviewed, and medication recommendations are made. Recommendations for certain medications will be coordinated with the prescribing provider.

### **Four weeks prior to your surgery date these drugs need to be stopped:**

- Rheumatoid Arthritis Medications  
Humira      Remicade      Enbrel      Methotrexate      Others

We will coordinate these medications with your rheumatologist

### **Two weeks prior to your surgery date these drugs need to be stopped:**

- All Herbs
- All Joint Supplements (Glucosamine, Omega Oils)
- Multi-Vitamins, Vitamin E, Fish Oils/Omega Oils
- All Diet Pills

**8 Days prior to your surgery date, these drugs need to be stopped. These injections can cause a build-up of stomach contents, raising the risk of aspiration during anesthesia.**



- **Weekly Injections - Stop 8 FULL days BEFORE the scheduled procedure.**

- Generic: Semaglutide; Brand: Ozempic, Wegovy
- Generic: Dulaglutide; Brand: Trulicity
- Generic: Exenatide; Brand: Bydureon
- Generic: Tirzepatide; Brand: Mounjaro, Zepbound

- **Daily Injections-Stop 1 FULL day before scheduled procedure:**

- Rybelsus

**Five days prior to your surgery date these drugs need to be stopped:**

- Anti-inflammatories (Ibuprofen, Aleve, Aspirin, Mobic, Celebrex, etc)

**Diabetic Medications BEFORE surgery:**

Many diabetic medications need to be taken differently in the days leading to your surgery. You will receive instructions from pretesting on how to hold these types of medications. If these instructions are not followed, your surgery will be CANCELLED.

- Glucophage    Metformin    Glucovance    Janumet

**Blood Thinners BEFORE surgery:**

Recommendations on how to discontinue these medications prior to surgery will be coordinated with the prescribing provider. If the instructions are not followed, your surgery will be CANCELLED.

- Coumadin    Warfarin    Jantoven    Xarelto    Eliquis
- Effient    Pradaxa    Aspirin & Plavix (may be continued at times)

**Bowel Management before surgery**

- Pain medication used after surgery can cause constipation. You may start stool softeners 1-2 days prior to surgery. It is recommended to continue taking them as long as you are taking narcotics
- Try to have a bowel movement the day before surgery.

**Prevention of urinary retention**

It is our policy to prescribe Flomax (Tamsulosin Hydrochloride) 0.4mg to help prevent urine retention after surgery. You will begin taking this medication 3 days prior to surgery and 4 days after surgery. This medication will only be prescribed if you meet at least one of the following criteria:

- Male patient with a history of BPH
- Male patient with history of urinary retention
- Male patient age 70 or older



## The Evening Before Surgery

- You will receive a call sometime between 2pm-5pm from the Surgery Center or hospital to receive your actual arrival time for your surgery. If not, check your phone messages.
- Do not eat or drink anything after midnight, EVEN WATER, unless otherwise instructed.
- If you are having surgery at the **CSMO Surgery Center**: You will have been instructed to drink a preoperative carbohydrate drink 2 hours before arrival time on the morning of surgery. Please follow your pretesting nurse's instructions regarding this drink.
- If you are having surgery at **Memorial Hospital**: You will be instructed NOT to drink a carbohydrate drink.
- Do not take medications unless you have been instructed to do so during your preoperative assessment at the surgery center or hospital.
- Take a shower with an anti-bacterial soap that is either given to you at Pretesting or purchased at a pharmacy or store. Common brands of the Chlorhexidine soap may be Hibiclens, Dynahex, or others.
- If you are having surgery at the **CSMO Surgery Center**: Please pick up your post-operative medication at your preferred pharmacy the day before surgery.
- If you are having surgery at **Memorial Hospital**: Your prescriptions will be electronically faxed to your designated pharmacy for you to pick up after discharge. Please be aware that the advanced practice nurses cannot prescribe narcotics in Georgia or Alabama, so you must get your initial prescription filled in Tennessee before you return home. As an option, CHI Memorial's outpatient pharmacy can fill your narcotic prescriptions before you leave the hospital.

## The Morning of Surgery

- Take a shower with an anti-bacterial soap that is either given to you at Pretesting or purchased at a pharmacy or store. Common brands of the Chlorhexidine soap may be Hibiclens, Dynahex, or others.
- Suggested items to take to the hospital: Personal hygiene (toothbrush, toothpaste, deodorant), watch, phone and charger, loose fitting or athletic clothing, slippers with non-slip soles or tennis shoes, photo ID, an up-to-date list of medications, insurance card, rolling walker (front wheel only, rollators are not safe at first). You will need a walker to get into the home you are staying in.



# After Surgery

## Discharge

- **CSMO Surgery Center Patients:** You will be discharged from the surgery center the same day. You must have someone remain with you until you are discharged and drive you home. You must have arrangements made for someone to stay with you at home for at least the first 24 hours after surgery, longer is better though.
- **Memorial Patients:** You may be discharged home from the hospital the same day or you may stay overnight at the hospital. You must have arrangements made for someone to stay with you at home for at least the first 24 hours after surgery, longer is better though.
- You will wake up with a knee immobilizer on. If proper quadriceps strength (decided by nurse after surgery), you will only need to wear the brace when sleeping until you are 4 weeks out from surgery. If the quadriceps is weakened, you will wear the brace for the first 24-48 hours until the block wears off – then you will need to wear the brace when sleeping until you are 4 weeks out from surgery. The best test for strength is to be able to lift leg straight from the hip well.
- You will leave the hospital using a walker, and transition to a cane as guided by therapy.

## Compression stockings QR Code

You will wake up with thigh high compression stockings on. You are to wear these for 23 hours a day for the first 6 weeks after surgery on both legs. This helps to limit swelling and the risk for a blood clot.

**Please scan QR code for additional stockings,  
just pick your size (15-20mmHg):**



- Use ice for pain relief at least three times daily for 15-20 minutes, and more as needed. If you have the cooling sleeve (Ice Machine), you can wear it as much as you like for comfort. Always use ice after your exercise program.
- Your appetite may be poor at first but will gradually return, often once your pain medication decreases.
- Drink plenty of water to stay hydrated.
- As you recover, your energy level may be low for a while after surgery. This is often normal, but if extreme, please let us or your PCP know.
- Walk every 2 hours while awake, continue to increase the distance that you walk as you heal.
- If you are not staying at your own home after surgery, please inform our office where you will be staying and the best phone number to contact you at.



## Post-Operative Medication

### Oxycodone 5mg

This medication is an opioid used to treat pain during the first couple of weeks following surgery. You may take 1 tablet every 4-6 hours as needed for pain. It is strongly recommended that you use this medication at a minimum for the first 3-5 days. You may occasionally take 2 tablets at first if needed.

### Robaxin / Methocarbamol 750 mg

This medication is a muscle relaxer used to help with muscle tightness, stiffness and spasms. You may take it three times a day as needed. It is not advised to take this at the same time as your pain medication, as this can cause oversedation. You may start with a half tablet initially as well.

### Aspirin 81 mg, or Eliquis 2.5 mg depending on risk factors

Blood thinner post operatively for DVT prophylaxis taken twice daily in the morning and the evening. You may be on something else as well based on medical history - this will be determined before surgery.

### Dulcolax / Bisacodyl 5 mg

Laxative for post op constipation due to narcotic use. You may take this as needed.

### Zofran / Ondansetron HCl 4mg

Prevention of nausea and vomiting from anesthesia or your pain medication. You may take this as needed.

### Tylenol Arthritis

Take two tablets every 8 hours for the first two weeks unless you have liver disease or have been told you are unable to take tylenol.

### Sample Medication Administration Table:

	7:00am	11:00am	3:00pm	7:00pm	11:00pm	3:00am
Oxycodone	X	X	X	X	X	X
Robaxin *AS NEEDED EVERY 8 HOURS (3 TIMES A DAY)*						
Aspirin 81 mg twice daily	X			X		

**\* The table above is an example of how to take your prescribed medications. Please adjust according to your lifestyle routine and any side effects that may occur. Do not set an alarm, if you're sleeping soundly, you will not need 3am dose.**



We try to wean off stronger prescription medications as soon as is reasonable and use non-prescription pain relievers. It is important that you take your prescriptions as directed. Do not take more than prescribed and do not take it if you do not need it. When it is time to consider taking another pill and you are not experiencing pain, it is entirely reasonable to take your pain medications less frequently than prescribed.

## **Bowel Management After Surgery**

Surgery, anesthesia, limited mobility, and the use of certain medications may slow your bowel function and cause constipation. In the event you experience bowel issues, the following are recommendations that may be helpful.

- Take OTC stool softener of choice daily, and laxatives as needed (good choices - Stool Softeners: Miralax, Colace, Laxative: Senekot or Senna).
- Drink extra water every day (at least 64 ounces).
- Drink juices, especially prune juice and apple juice, which promote stool softening.
- Drink a hot beverage about 30 minutes before your usual time for a bowel movement. Caffeinated drinks such as coffee or hot tea can help.
- Increase dietary fiber: whole grain breads, cereals, pasta; fresh/dried fruits, fresh vegetables, beans; use a fiber supplement.
- Increase probiotic foods: yogurt, sauerkraut, kombucha, etc. Use a probiotic supplement.
- Walk every day.
- Reduce narcotic pain medication use as pain level allows.

### **Over the Counter Options for relief of severe constipation:**

- Dulcolax 5mg tabs (this medication is sent in by us before surgery)
- Magnesium Citrate
- Suggested constipation mixture: Mix 2 tablespoons Milk of Magnesia with 2 tablespoons WARM Prune Juice and 2 tablespoons Sprite; Drink. If no results within 2-3 hours, repeat dose. If no additional results in another 2-3 hours, you may repeat dose one more time.
- Fleets enema, if above mixture not successful.

\* For Severe Constipation: Call CSMO if no BM within 3 days after surgery. Notify CSMO if you have tried any of these and still do not have a bowel movement. We can order prescription medications if necessary.

## Post-Operative Blood Clot Prevention

- You will wake up with a thigh high compression hose. You are to wear these for 23 hours a day for the first 6 weeks after surgery on both legs. This helps to limit swelling and the risk for a blood clot. If they cut into your thigh, let us know ASAP! You can roll them down or convert to knee high if necessary.
- Most of the time, you will be prescribed Aspirin 81 mg twice a day for 6 weeks.
- Based on risk factors discussed before surgery, you alternatively may be prescribed Eliquis, for 4 weeks after your surgery, followed by Aspirin 81 mg daily for 2 weeks.

**\*\*If you are already taking a blood thinner daily, we will NOT be sending in medication to your pharmacy as you will need to follow the protocol determined by your cardiologist team which is communicated before surgery.\*\***

## Physical Therapy

- Typically, you will begin physical therapy the day after discharge.
- Therapy will guide you on the transition from a walker to a cane around the 2-week mark.
- Therapy will be 2- 3 times a week for at least 4-6 weeks.
- It is recommended to take your pain medicine at least 45 minutes prior to physical therapy appointments. Do not drive while on pain medication - you will need a driver initially.
- Walk every 2 hours while awake and continue to increase the distance that you walk as you heal. Continue home exercise programs twice daily for 6 weeks or as instructed.

## Home Equipment

### ▪ Pedal Exerciser / Restorator

Pedal exercises completed twice daily are recommended as part of your home exercise program after a total knee replacement. This active range of motion exercise allows your knee to bend and stretch, and reduces the risk of scar tissue formation during healing. Begin pedal exercises the day after surgery. You may begin pedaling according to tolerance at first. For example, you may only be able to do 25 revolutions forward and 25 backwards. Or, you may only be able to rock back and forth at first until you can begin to do full revolutions. You will gradually increase your revolutions as your knee heals. The pedal exerciser is shown below.



### **Pedal exerciser Instructions**

- Sitting upright at back of chair, place both feet inside pedal straps.
- Pedal bicycle 100 times forward.
- Pedal bicycle 100 times backward.
- Do this each morning and evening for at least six weeks.

### **Post-Operative Dressing**

Depending on multiple factors, you will have one of the two dressing options below.

#### **Option 1:**



The Aquacel dressing may be removed 7 days after surgery. If it looks clean and dry it can remain on until the first office visit. If removed, a new dry dressing should be applied as needed. Incision should then be kept clean, dry and covered until staples are removed at 2-week postop appointment. No further bandage is needed after staples are removed and steri-strips are placed.

#### **Option 2: Gauze and Clear Tape**

The topical protective dressing can be removed after 3 days. Under the dressing, you will notice a piece of mesh that is tinted purple. The mesh will fall off on its own after a number of weeks. There is no need to continue to cover it unless you prefer to.

\* No ointments or creams should be applied to the incision initially.. No immersing in water (tub, pool, lake, etc) until the incision is completely healed, usually around 8 weeks.

\* Please notify us of any increase in drainage from the incision, excessive redness or swelling, or if you run a fever OVER 101 degrees.

\* After total joint surgery, you may have moderate bruising and swelling up and down the leg.

### **Post-Operative Clinic Appointments**

- Most initial 2-week post op visits are scheduled with Blakley Fine or Jennifer Rose, Dr. Nash's physician assistant and nurse practitioner.
- Typically, patients will then follow up around 6 weeks with Dr. Nash, but occasionally with Blakley Fine or Jennifer Rose.
- Appointments will be scheduled as recommended or needed thereafter.

## Driving Post-Operatively

On average, patients typically resume driving around to 3-4 weeks post-operatively when you are:

- No longer using the walker, no longer taking narcotic pain medication during the day and when you feel safe to drive.
- Practice in a parking lot and start with short distances first.

## Antibiotics after Total Joint Surgery

We do not recommend dental work until 90 days after your total joint replacement. Each time you see your dentist, let them know that you have had total knee replacement surgery. It is important that you take antibiotics prior to any dental procedure - even routine cleanings as it may contribute to a higher risk of developing an infection. You will also need antibiotics before any non-sterile invasive exam. This is a precaution to help prevent a late infection in your knee joint, which is devastating to us all. If you are not sure, please call us.

Depending on a patient's allergies to medications, the following four different antibiotic regimens are recommended prior to dental procedures:

- **Amoxicillin 500mg** - Take 4 capsules one hour prior to your procedure, then one capsule every 6 hours for 24 hours
- **Ciprofloxacin 500mg** - Take 2 capsules one hour prior to your procedure, then one capsule every 12 hours for 24
- **Clindamycin 150mg** - Take 2 tablets one hour prior to your procedure, then one tablet every 6 hours for 24 hours
- **Erythromycin 250mg** - Take 2 tablets one hour prior to your procedure, then one tablet every 6 hours for 24 hours

***AT CSMO, MOST OF US BELIEVE THAT TAKING ANTIBIOTICS IS A LIFETIME PRECAUTION FOR ALL PATIENTS WITH TOTAL JOINT REPLACEMENTS. IF YOU ARE NOT SURE WHETHER OR NOT TO TAKE ANTIBIOTICS PRIOR TO AN INVASIVE PROCEDURE, PLEASE CALL OUR NURSES AT (423) 624-2696.***



## Important Contacts

**Dr. Nash's Nurse** – Avionne Ball (423)-624-2696

**Dr. Nash's Physician Assistant** – Blakley Fine (423)-624-2696

**Your Case Manager** – Gail Peterson (423)-693-0068

- Works with you and your family to develop a discharge plan that meets your needs and allows you to return to your regular activities as soon as possible
- Expects that you should be able to go home to recover in your own safe surroundings
- Communicates your plan to the hospital and other centers
- Reviews needs you may have at home after surgery, your physical therapy appointments and medical equipment will be pre-arranged
- Acts as your advocate throughout your total knee replacement journey

**Your Surgery Scheduler** - Karyn Gatlin (423)-697-8821

- Schedules your surgery, pre-operative appointments, and post- operative appointments
- Assists in coordinating any required pre-operative clearances from your primary care and specialty physicians
- Works with the financial team to ensure that your insurance company's approval / pre-certification is obtained so that you may plan accordingly

**Dr. Nash's Assistant** – Courtney Berg (423)-664-5159

- Completes any forms or documents required for FMLA, work releases, etc.
- The office has a \$20 processing fee, and a signed information release is required.
- Fax Number: 423-664-5156

### Your Billing Department

Will contact you before surgery to discuss your estimated coinsurance and deductible. They will estimate your out-of-pocket expenses and discuss expected costs and payment expectations.

**CSMO Billing Department at 423-629-4395**

**CSMO Surgery Center Billing Department at 423-269-6244**

**Memorial Billing Department at 1-800-276-3614**



## CSMO's Physical Therapy Locations

### **McCallie Office**

2415 McCallie Ave, Chattanooga TN 37404

423-624-2696 x 3000

### **Gunbarrel Office**

1949 Gunbarrel Road Suite 280, Chattanooga TN 37421

423-624-2696 x 3001

### **C4 Sports Therapy – Chattanooga**

6401 Lee Highway Suite 109, Chattanooga, TN 37421

423-713-5639

### **Hixson Office**

2051 Hamill Road, Hixson TN 37343

423-624-2696, x 3002

### **Cleveland Office**

2400 North Ocoee Street, Cleveland TN 37311

423-624-2696, x 3003

### **C4 Sports Therapy – Cleveland**

2399 Parker Street NE Suite C3, Cleveland TN 37311

423-697-8844

### **North Georgia Office**

4725 Battlefield Parkway, Ringgold GA 30736

423-624-2696 x 3005

