

Rehabilitation Protocol: Anterior Cruciate Ligament (ACL) Reconstruction

Name: _____

Date: _____

Diagnosis: _____

Date of Surgery: _____

Phase I (Weeks 0-3)

- **Weightbearing:** As tolerated with crutches (may be modified if concomitant meniscal repair/meniscal transplant or articular cartilage procedure is performed)
- **Hinged Knee Brace:**
 - Locked in full extension for ambulation, unlocked while sleeping (**Weeks 0-1**)
 - Unlocked for ambulation and removed while sleeping (**Weeks 2-3**)
- **Therapeutic Exercises**
 - Quad/Hamstring sets and heel slides
 - Non-weightbearing stretch of the Gastroc/Soleus
 - Straight-Leg Raise with brace in full extension until quad strength prevents extension lag

Phase II (Weeks 4-6)

- **Weightbearing:** As tolerated -- discontinue crutch use
- **Hinged Knee Brace:** Discontinue brace use when patient has achieved full extension with no evidence of extension lag
- **Range of Motion** – Maintain full knee extension – work on progressive knee flexion
- **Therapeutic Exercises**
 - Closed chain extension exercises
 - Hamstring Curls, Toe Raises, Balance Exercises
 - Progress to weightbearing stretch of the Gastroc/Soleus
 - Begin use of the stationary bicycle

Phase III (Weeks 7-12)

- **Weightbearing:** Full weightbearing
- **Range of Motion** – Full/Painless ROM
- **Therapeutic Exercises**
 - Advance closed chain strengthening exercises, proprioception activities
 - Begin use of the Stairmaster/Elliptical
- **Can Start Straight Ahead Running at 12 Weeks**

Phase IV (Months 3-12)

- Continue with strengthening (quad/hamstring) and flexibility
- Begin cutting exercises and sport-specific drills
- Maintenance program for strength and endurance
- **Return to sports at 9 months (Up to 12 months)**

Comments:

Frequency: 2-3 times per week

Duration: 6-8 weeks

Signature: _____

Date: _____