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When You Get Home: Vertebroplasty and Kyphoplasty

1. When to Call Your Doctor: Call the office if you have: 1. **Severe pain** that is not relieved by your pain medication. 2. Your dressing should become *saturated with blood or drainage*. 3. *Temperature above 101°*. (If you have a low grade fever 99° to 101° please deep breath and cough several times a day as well as drink plenty of fluids).

2. Wound Care: Keep your incision clean and dry. You may remove the Band-Aids and take a shower 1 day after surgery. **DO NOT SOAK, SWIM OR USE HEAT FOR 3 WEEKS.**

3. Activity after surgery: Typically, you will be weaker and tire more easily when you first come home from the hospital. You may drive the day after surgery if you are not taking pain medication or receiving Home Health Services. Do not lift anything greater than 10-15 pounds, do repetitive movements, engage in contact sports or vigorous physical activity until released to do so by the doctor. You may take short walks, gradually increase the distance as you tolerate (it is better to take several short walks than 1 long one). Sexual activity can normally be resumed the day after surgery in a position of comfort. *Return to work* and with what limitations will depend on what you do at work and how you feel.

4. Pain control at Home: You will have a prescription for pain medication to use as needed; the instructions will be on the bottle. **Use an ice pack over the incision for 20 minutes several times a day as needed for comfort.** Mild pain can be treated with Tylenol, please follow directions on the bottle, noting total use in 24 hours. Discomfort is normal while you gradually return to normal activity, but pain is a signal to stop what you are doing or proceed more slowly.

5. Follow-up: You will be seen in the office approximately 2-3 weeks after surgery. Your incision will be examined. Your follow-up is usually with the Nurse Practitioner. This appointment time should be given to you upon discharge from the hospital. **If no appointment time is given, please call the office for an appointment.**

6. Diet: You will need to increase your water, fluids and fiber. Pain medications and less than normal activity tend to cause constipation. You may take a mild laxative if needed.

7. Medication: You will take medications as directed when you get home. You will be given a list at the hospital. Normally you resume your pre operative medication.