

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## What materials were used in my joint surgery?

For hip surgeries, we use titanium alloys for the metal joint component, plastic for the cartilage replacement and ceramics for the ball socket. For knees, we use cobalt-chromium alloys for the joint and plastic for the cartilage.

## What medication should I take when I leave the hospital?

Upon leaving, if prescribed by your physician, you should take:

- An anti-inflammatory medication
- A blood thinner, such as aspirin or warfarin
- Pain medication along with a stool softener
- Any medications you were taking for other health concerns prior to your surgery

## What precautions should I take with my incision?

Try to do as little activity as possible until your incision heals. You may shower if the wound is covered with a waterproof dressing, but avoid swimming and bathing. Let the wound heal on its own and do not use Neosporin, lotions or creams.

## What will the area around my incision look like?

You will most likely have bruising around your hip, thigh, lower leg or ankle. Expect significant swelling around your knee or hip.

## IMPORTANT POST-OP CONCERNS

### What if I am concerned about my joint replacement?

Please follow up with your surgeon or their assistant. They'll be able to walk you through any concerns. Please do not follow up with your primary care provider, urgent care or local ER unless absolutely necessary. If your surgeon is out of town or unavailable, we'll have another surgeon follow up with you.

### What if a problem occurs after-hours or over the weekend?

If the problem is potentially life-threatening, such as shortness of breath, chest pain or change in ability to think, seek out the closest emergency medical assistance.

If it's not life-threatening, call our University Hospital operator at (573) 882-4141. For most concerns, we'll have you come in for an evaluation in the clinic at the beginning of the week if the issue occurred over the weekend, or next day if the issue occurred during the week.

### When should I call my surgeon?

Call your surgeon if you:

- Have a fever over 101.3 F
- Experience wound bleeding or draining more than five days after your surgery
- Have increased pain or difficulty moving joint
- Have increased pain in your calf or thigh muscle
- Have difficulty emptying bladder or having bowel movements for more than two days
- Are unable to participate in physical therapy