Post-operative Rehabilitation Protocol

Total Shoulder Replacement

General Guidelines

- Supervised physical therapy typically takes place for 4-5 months after surgery
- You will be wearing a sling for 6 weeks after surgery to protect the subscapularis repair
- No active internal rotation for 12 weeks
- Do not support body weight with involved arm for 12 weeks
- PT should begin after first post-op visit at 2 weeks
- Contact therapist or physician for questions or concerns

	Range of Motion	Immobilizer	Exercises
Protection Phase Weeks 0 - 2	No shoulder ROM. Wrist and elbow ROM encouraged	Sling w/ abduction pillow at all times except hygiene	Ice: 20 minutes on, 20 minutes off every hour Exercises: Pendulums only
Therapy Phase 1 Weeks 2 - 6	PROM – AAROM progression, except – No active IR/backwards extension for 6 weeks. ER not beyond 30° due to subscapularis precautions	Sling w/ abduction pillow for total of 6 weeks	Exercises: Pendulums, grip strength, progress ROM Modalities: Per therapist – E-stim, Ultrasound, heat (before), ice (after)
Therapy Phase 2 Weeks 6 - 12	Progress AAROM → AROM. Increase ROM as tolerated with gentle passive stretch at end ranges	Wean out of sling	Exercises: Begin light resisted ER/FF/ABD: isometrics, bands, concentric motions only No resisted internal rotation/backwards extension until 12 weeks post-op Modalities: Per therapist
Therapy Phase 3 Weeks 12+	Increase ROM as tolerated	None	Continue phase 2 and advance as tolerated for cuff, deltoid and scapular stabilizers. Begin resisted IR/Backward extension with isometrics → Light bands → weights Begin eccentric motions, plyometrics, closed chain exercises

