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Discharge Instructions Posterior Cervical Fusion

Name: _____

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Neurosurgery

Medications:

- Take any medications only as directed.
- Taking acetaminophen (Tylenol) is acceptable, but avoid ibuprofen (Motrin, Advil), naproxen (Naprosyn), indomethacin (Indocin), and aleve for three months.
- If you experience constipation while taking a narcotic pain reliever, begin using an over-the-counter laxative.
- Use a muscle relaxant to prevent muscle spasms or severe muscle tightness.

Diet:

- Resume whatever diet you were on before surgery (unrestricted, diabetic, low sodium, etc.)

Activity:

- Avoid pushing/pulling and lifting over 15 lbs. for four weeks.
- Walking is a good exercise. Go for at least four short walks a day, even if inside your home.
- You may remove your Ted Hose stockings once you are consistently walking four times a day.
- Do not drive until you are released from wearing the collar or if you have had any pain medication within four hours. You may ride in a car as a passenger as much as you tolerate.
- Wear your collar at all times except for shaving or bathing. When the collar is off, keep your head in the same position as if the collar were still applied.

Wound Care:

- Call the office if you have drainage from your wound, separation of wound edges, or increased pain, redness or swelling.
- Call the office if you have an elevated temperature (101 F or greater).
- You may shower at any time, but do not soak the incision in a tub or pool for 10 days after surgery.
- Dry the incision by blotting, not rubbing.
- You do not need to keep a dressing on the wound.
- If you have steri-strips, leave them on for 10 days after surgery. If their edges curl up, you may trim carefully with scissors. If they fall off early, don't worry. Re-absorbable sutures are beneath the skin edges and will continue to support the incision while it heals.
- If you have staples or visible sutures, they will need to be removed approximately 10 days after surgery. Please call our office to arrange for this at a time convenient to you.

X-rays:

- You will need to have X-rays done within a few days before your four-week follow-up appointment.
- These can be done at the hospital or at your primary doctor's office (if they have x-ray equipment).
- Please bring the X-rays with you to your follow-up appointment UNLESS they were done at Holland Hospital. (We can access their x-rays via a secure Internet link.)

Follow-Up: Date: _____ Time: _____ With:

- David W. Lowry, MD
- Adam Kremer, MD
- Scott M. Tuinstra PA-C
- Jefferson Alferink, PA-C