



# Rehabilitation Protocol: Anterior Cruciate Ligament (ACL) Reconstruction with Hamstrings Autograft

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Diagnosis: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Surgery: \_\_\_\_\_

**Phase I (Weeks 0-4)**

- **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 and sleeping (**Weeks 0-1**)
  - Unlocked for ambulation and removed while sleeping (**Weeks 1-4**)
- **Range of Motion** – AAROM → AROM as tolerated
- **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
  - **No Hamstring Stretching Until 4 Weeks Post-Op**

**Phase II (Weeks 3-12)**

- **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 Stretching, Toe Raises, Balance Exercises
  - Progress to weightbearing stretch of the Gastroc/Soleus
  - Begin use of the stationary bicycle

**Phase III (Months 3-8)**

- **Weightbearing:** Full weightbearing
- **Range of Motion** – Full/Painless ROM
- **Therapeutic Exercises**
  - Begin Hamstring strengthening
  - Advance closed chain strengthening exercises, proprioception activities
  - Begin use of the Stairmaster/Elliptical
  - **Can Start Straight Ahead Running at 3 months**

**Phase IV (Months 8-10)**

- Continue with strengthening (quad/hamstring) and flexibility
- Begin cutting exercises and sport-specific drills
- Maintenance program for strength and endurance
- **Return to sports at 10-12 months**

Comments:

Frequency: \_\_\_\_\_ times per week

Duration: \_\_\_\_\_ weeks

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



**Phase IV (3-9 months)**

- **Weight Bearing and Range of Motion**
  - Full
  - Pain-free
- **Brace Use**
  - None
- **Therapeutic Elements**
  - Continue above with increased resistance
  - Progress closed chain activities
  - Begin treadmill walking, swimming, and sport-specific activities

**Comments:**

**Frequency:** \_\_\_\_\_ **times per week**

**Duration:** \_\_\_\_\_ **weeks**

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_