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**REHAB PROTOCOL: Posterior Cruciate Ligament (PCL) Reconstruction**

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

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

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

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

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

- **Weightbearing:** As tolerated with crutches (may be modified if concomitant posterolateral corner reconstruction, meniscal repair/meniscal transplant or articular cartilage procedure is performed)
- **Hinged Knee Brace**
  - o Locked in full extension for ambulation and sleeping (Weeks 0-1)
  - o Locked in full extension for ambulation – removed for therapy sessions (Weeks 1-4)
- **Range of Motion: Weeks 0-1:** None, **Weeks 1-2:** PROM 0-30°, **Weeks 2-4:** PROM 0-90° (MAINTAIN ANTERIOR PRESSURE ON PROXIMAL TIBIA AS KNEE IS FLEXED FROM WEEK 1-4: NEED TO PREVENT POSTERIOR SAGGING AT ALL TIMES)
- **Therapeutic Exercises**
  - o Quad/Hamstring sets and ankle pumps
  - o Straight-Leg Raise with brace in full extension until quad strength prevents extension lag
  - o Hip abduction/adduction (RESISTANCE MUST BE PROXIMAL TO THE KNEE)
  - o Hamstring/Calf stretch – Calf press with theraband progressing to standing toe raises with knee in full extension

**Phase II (Weeks 4-12)**

- **Weightbearing:** As tolerated with crutches-- discontinue crutch use at 6-8 weeks post-op
- **Hinged Knee Brace : Weeks 4-6:** unlocked for gait training/exercise only, **Weeks 6-8:** unlocked for all activities, **Discontinue brace at 8 weeks post-op**
- **Range of Motion** –Maintain full knee extension–work on progressive knee flexion (Goal of 110° by week 6)
- **Therapeutic Exercises:**
  - o **Weeks 4-8:** Gait training, wall slides (0-30°), Mini-squats (0-30°), Leg press (0-60°)

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o **Weeks 8-12:** Stationary bicycle (with seat higher than normal), Stairmaster, Closed-chain terminal knee extension, Leg press (0-90°), Balance and proprioception activities

**Phase III (12 weeks to 9 months)**

- **Weightbearing::** Full weightbearing with normalized gait pattern
- **Range of Motion** – Full/Painless ROM
- **Therapeutic Exercises:**
  - o Advance closed chain strengthening exercises, progress with proprioception/balance activities
  - o Maintain flexibility
  - o **Begin treadmill walking – progress to jogging**

**Phase IV (9 months and beyond)**

- o Maintain strength, endurance and function – initiate plyometric program
- o Begin cutting exercises and sport-specific drills
- o **Return to sports as tolerated**

**Comments:** AVOID ACTIVE HAMSTRING ACTIVITY AND ACTIVE KNEE EXTENSION FROM 90-70° UNTIL POST-OP WEEK 4

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

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

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

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