



820 S. Akers, Suite 220 Visalia, CA 93277
Office Number: 559-733-3346

ACL Post-Operative Instructions:

Wound care/bathing:

- You may shower . Both the bandage, and your knee, need to remain dry for 3 days .
- You may remove the bandage 4 days after surgery. If steri-strips are in place underneath the bandage, please leave those on the skin until your post-op appointment. You may now get the knee wet, and wash gently with soap/water. Please recover incisions with band-aids if steri-strips are not present.
- **NO SOAKING IN A POOL OR TUB FOR THREE WEEKS OR UNTIL CLEARED BY DR. CRINER**
- When you remove the knee brace to shower, please keep the leg straight and do not bend or twist the knee.

Pain control:

- Pain medication will be called into your pharmacy of choice, the day after your pre – op visit.
- Please pick up your medication from the pharmacy, and take as prescribed after surgery. The only exception is: it is a good idea to take the narcotics around the clock for the first 24 hours after surgery to prevent yourself from being caught off guard when the numbing medication wears off that was used during surgery.
- Take an over-the-counter anti-inflammatory (Advil, Aleve, Ibuprofen, etc.) for the first 2-4 weeks after surgery to help with inflammation, pain, and swelling. You can discontinue the anti-inflammatory if you have no pain.
- Ice the knee for 10-15 minutes, every hour, to help with swelling.
- Elevate the leg, with the knee higher than your heart, as much as possible to help with pain as well as swelling.
- We CAN NOT prescribe anything stronger than what you are prescribed initially.

*Keep in mind surgery recovery is uncomfortable and it is common to be in pain during your recovery. Please see the recommendations above to help with pain relief. *

Blood clot prevention:

- You should get up and walk around frequently during the day; at least once every hour or two. This is usually enough to help prevent blood clot formation.
- If you smoke, take birth control, or are just generally concerned: take Aspirin 325 mg, 1 tablet daily, for the next 2-4 weeks.

Activity:

- Put full weight on your leg as your pain tolerates after surgery with crutches for ambulation and the brace.
- Wear the brace at all times, even when sleeping.
- Do not return to work until instructed to do so, safely.
- It is safest not to drive until your first post-op appointment. If you are no longer taking narcotic medication, and your leg is full strength, it may be okay to start sooner.

Physical Therapy:

- You will be given a prescription for physical therapy at your first post-op appointment.
- Call and schedule your physical therapy evaluation after your first post-op appointment with Dr. Criner.

Follow up appointments:

- Your first post-op appointment will be scheduled at your pre-op visit, but if not, please call 559-733-3346 and speak to Charlotte.

Questions:

- Call 559-733-3346 and ask for Dr. Criner's staff during normal business hours.

Emergencies:

- **If you have emergent questions or concerns that cannot wait until the day, you may dial 559-733-3346; you will get the orthopedic surgeon who is on-call. If it is not Dr. Criner, the surgeon that answers your call will not know who you are, so please be sure to clarify that you are one of Dr. Criner's patients, the surgery that you had, and the date that you had surgery.**
- **It is our office policy not to prescribe medications over the phone. If you need any medication during the night or weekend, you will have to go to the emergency room.**