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# A GUIDE TO YOUR HIP REPLACEMENT EXPERIENCE

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This guide will assist in preparing you for your upcoming hip replacement procedure at UnaSource Surgery Center. Being informed and prepared will be a large factor in your surgery's success.

Please review this booklet, share it with the friends and family members who will be assisting you during recovery, and bring it with you to all events related to your surgery.

**UnaSource**  
*Surgery Center*



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Joint replacement is a surgical procedure in which the worn, damaged surfaces of the joint are removed and replaced with new artificial parts. Your doctor may consider joint replacement if you have severe pain which limits daily activities and is not relieved with medications, injections, physical therapy, or other treatments. The goal of the surgery is to relieve pain and restore the alignment and function of your joint.

Joint replacement provides the most dramatic relief of arthritis pain available to patients.

Traditionally, joint replacement has been an inpatient surgical procedure. With the introduction of minimally invasive techniques, modern pain relief protocols, improved anesthetic techniques, and rapid rehabilitation, surgeons can perform total joint replacement procedures on an outpatient basis.

**OUTPATIENT JOINT REPLACEMENT IS THE SAME AS TRADITIONAL JOINT REPLACEMENT BUT THE PATIENT CAN GO HOME ON THE SAME DAY OF SURGERY. THIS ALLOWS PATIENTS TO RECOVER IN THE COMFORT OF THEIR OWN HOME INSTEAD OF OVERNIGHT IN A HOSPITAL.**

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With outpatient joint replacement, patients can often return to normal activities quicker and with less pain than with traditional joint replacement surgery.

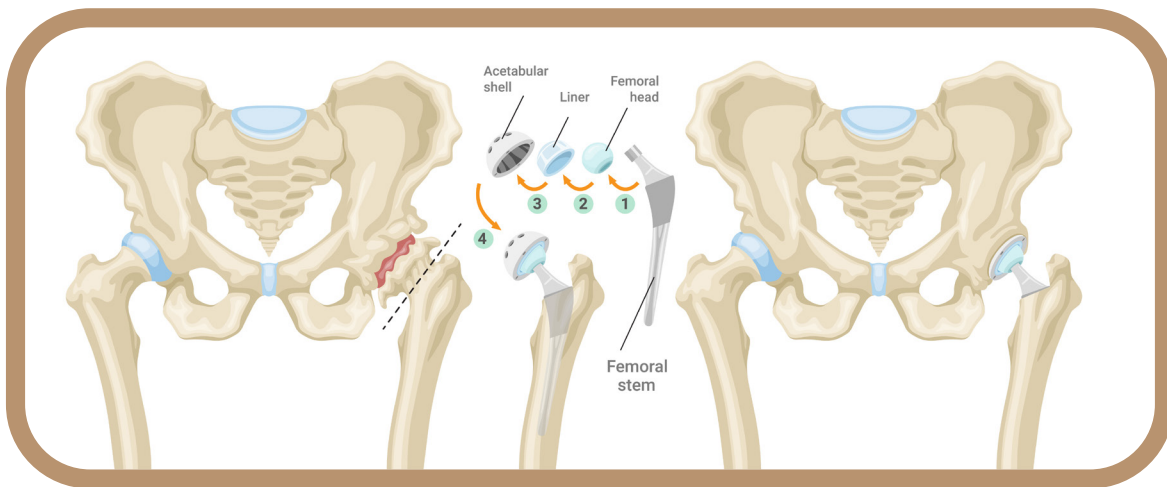
**Other advantages of outpatient joint replacement include:**

- Rapid recovery
- Decreased hospital stay
- Improved pain management protocols
- Early mobilization
- Careful home monitoring
- Fewer complications
- Improved outcomes
- Increased patient satisfaction

## **Hip replacements done at UnaSource:**

### **Total Hip Arthroplasty**

The ball and socket of the hip joint are replaced





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# **HIP REPLACEMENT RISKS**

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As with any major surgery, there are a number of potential complications related to joint replacement surgery. The general risks of joint replacement surgery include: heart attack, stroke, infection, pneumonia, bleeding, blood clot, urinary dysfunction, and nerve or blood vessel damage. This list is not all-inclusive.

## **Infection**

To reduce the risk of a surgical site infection, your nose will be swabbed with betadine before surgery. You will also shower with Chlorhexidine Gluconate 4% (CHG) skin cleanser for 2 days before surgery and on the morning of your surgery to reduce the bacteria on your skin (see page 11). On the day of surgery at UnaSource Surgery Center you will receive an antibiotic.

### **To reduce the risk of a surgical site infection:**

- ★ Practice good hygiene during your recovery
- ★ Wash your hands
- ★ Wear clean clothes
- ★ Use clean linens and bedding
- ★ Avoid touching the bandage on your wound

## **Pneumonia**

### **To reduce the risk of pneumonia:**

- ★ Stop smoking now. Smoking increases your anesthesia risks, increases your risk of pneumonia after surgery, and slows tissue repair at the site of your surgery.
- ★ Deep breathe. After your surgery during your recovery, take at least 10 deep focused breaths every hour while you are awake. Try to do this as long as you are taking pain medication.
- ★ Avoid others who are sick, especially those with a cough.

## **Bleeding**

### **To reduce the risk of bleeding:**

- ★ Stop taking anti-inflammatory medications 7 days prior to surgery, or as directed. Examples of these medications are: Motrin, Aleve, Mobic, Naprosyn, aspirin, etc.
- ★ If you are on blood thinners such as Coumadin (warfarin), Plavix, Xarelto, Eliquis, Lovenox or aspirin – you may need to stop taking these medications prior to surgery. Talk to your surgeon and primary care provider to determine what is best for you.

## **Blood Clot**

Blood clots commonly form in the legs. A blood clot that lodges in the veins of the leg is called a deep vein thrombosis (DVT). To reduce your risk of a DVT, your surgeon will prescribe a blood thinner such as aspirin for you to take after your surgery. You will also be prescribed a sequential compression device (SCD) and wraps to wear on both legs; the SCD will be worn for 2 weeks during times when you are resting at home. UnaSource Surgery Center will give you the SCD on your day of surgery.



### To reduce the risk of a blood clot:

- ★ Use the prescribed sequential compression device as instructed.
- ★ Get up and walk; moving around keeps your blood circulating.
- ★ Perform ankle pumps and rotate your ankles clockwise and counter-clockwise every hour while at rest.
- ★ Contract your thigh muscles every hour you are awake.

## Urinary or Bladder Issues

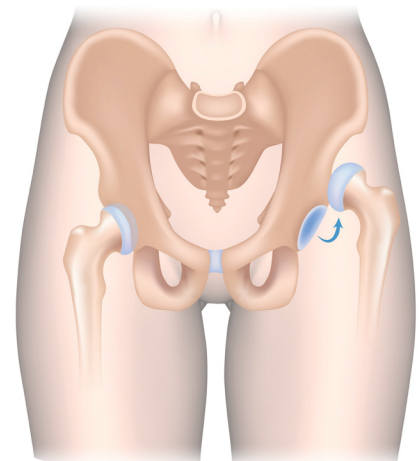
After surgery it can be difficult to urinate and your stream may be weak. You will be required to urinate prior to discharge. You should be able to urinate within 6 hours after your surgery. Turning on a faucet may help bring on the urge to urinate. Notify your surgeon if you are not able to urinate within 6 hours after your surgery.

## Nerve Damage

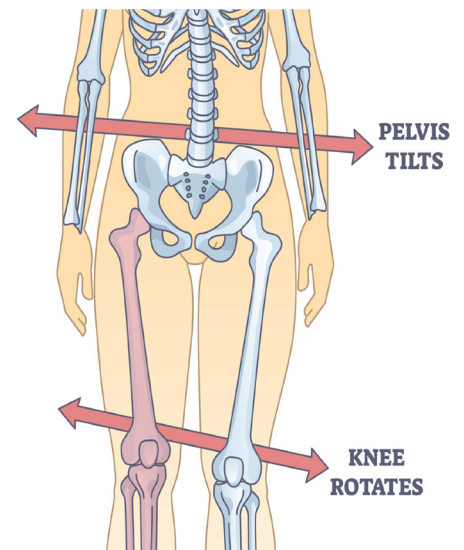
All patients will notice numbness in the skin around the incision site. The area of numbness usually decreases in size over time.

## Total Hip Replacement Complications

**Dislocation:** When the ball of the joint comes out of the socket. Strict adherence to the Hip Precautions outlined on page 21 greatly decrease the risk of dislocation.



**Leg Length Inequality:** Usually minor and not noticeable during daily activity. This can be a common perception immediately following surgery, but may resolve quickly.





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# **PREPARING FOR OUTPATIENT HIP REPLACEMENT**

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# UnaSource Surgery Center Hip Replacement Experience Timeline\*

\*your individual experience may vary

<b>2-4 Weeks Before Surgery</b>	Watch the Joint Replacement Education video on <a href="http://unasourcesurgery.com">unasourcesurgery.com</a> Stop taking certain medications as instructed.
	UnaSource Surgery Center Patient Registration will call to verify your demographic and insurance information.
	Look for an email from our RN Ortho Coordinators with steps to take prior to surgery.
<b>1-2 Weeks Before Surgery</b>	A UnaSource Ortho Coordinator will call to go over your health history and answer questions. Be sure to have a complete list of your medications available for the call.
<b>2 Days Before Surgery</b>	Start showering with Chlorhexidine Gluconate.
<b>Day Before Surgery</b>	Shower with Chlorhexidine Gluconate.
	UnaSource Surgery Center will call between 3-5pm with your surgery arrival time.
	Wash bedding and towels.
	Do not eat after midnight.
<b>Day of Surgery</b>	Shower with Chlorhexidine Gluconate at home prior to surgery.
	Replace bedding with fresh linens prior to surgery.
	Take the medications you have been instructed to take with only a sip of water.
<b>Day After Surgery</b>	Your home care company will call to set up home visits if not previously arranged.
	A UnaSource Surgery Center Ortho Coordinator will call to follow up.
	Call your surgeon's office to schedule follow-up appointment.
<b>48 Hrs After Surgery</b>	A UnaSource Surgery Center Ortho Coordinator will call to follow up.
<b>7 Days After Surgery</b>	A UnaSource Surgery Center Ortho Coordinator will call to follow up.
<b>30/60/90 Days After Surgery</b>	You will receive a follow up email from UnaSource.





## **Medical Clearance**

Your surgeon may require a medical or cardiac evaluation prior to surgery. You should see your primary care doctor and/or cardiologist if this is required. The results of the medical evaluations need to be sent to your surgeon's office.

## **Dental Work**

If you have not seen a dentist in the past 6 months, make an appointment as soon as possible for a dental exam. You should not have any major dental work or a cleaning in the month prior to your joint replacement surgery or for 3 months after your surgery.

## **Flu Shot/Covid Shot**

If you choose to get vaccinated, please make sure it is completed at least 4 weeks prior to the surgery date.

## **Medications**

**Stop taking the following medications 7-14 days prior to surgery, or as directed:**

- Anti-inflammatory (Motrin, Aleve, Mobic, Naprosyn, aspirin, etc)
- Vitamins and Supplements (fish oil, calcium, glucosamine)
- Rheumatologic (Enbrel, Remicade, Methotrexate)

If you are on blood thinners such as Coumadin (Warfarin), Plavix, Xarelto, Eliquis, Lovenox or aspirin – you may need to stop taking these medications prior to surgery. Continue taking pain medication and narcotics, as well as blood pressure, diabetic, and heart medications.

## **Betadine Swab**

Your nose will be swabbed with a betadine swab the day of surgery to eliminate any Staphylococcus Aureus bacteria that may be present. Thirty-five percent of the population carry this bacteria in their nose, which can transfer to your skin. Studies have shown that eliminating this bacteria from your nose prior to surgery reduces the risk of a surgical site infection.

## **Chlorhexidine Gluconate 4% (CHG) Skin Cleanser**

Showering with this soap has been shown to decrease the bacteria level on your skin which may reduce your risk of a surgical site infection. Plan to purchase the CHG skin cleanser and shower with it the 2 days prior to your surgery and on the morning of your surgery before you leave your home for the Center.



# Preparing for Recovery at Home

You must have a support person who will accompany you at UnaSource Surgery Center on the day of your surgery and stay with you for the first few days after surgery. It is ideal that your support person also watches our online Joint Replacement video.

You will be going home with a walker. You may consider attaching a basket or bag to the walker as it is not safe to carry items when using it.

## Make sure pathways between rooms are clear:

- Remove doormats and throw rugs
- Secure floor-level cords
- Remove clutter from the floors



**Pets can be a trip hazard too!**

## Complete shopping, housekeeping and laundry prior to your surgery date:

- Put newly laundered linens on your bed the morning of your surgery and ensure you have a supply of clean bath towels – using clean linens and towels may reduce the risk of getting a surgical site infection
- Move items you will need or frequently use in the kitchen, cupboards & bathroom to waist level for easy access
- Get a shower chair
- Get a raised toilet seat
- Prepare for meals and shop in advance





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# **WHAT TO EXPECT ON YOUR DAY OF SURGERY**

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## Day Before Surgery

UnaSource Surgery Center will call between 3-5pm the day before your surgery to notify you of your arrival time. For those having surgery on a Monday, this call will be made on the Friday prior to your surgery date. You are typically asked to arrive at UnaSource Surgery Center 2 hours prior to your scheduled surgery time. During this phone call, the UnaSource team member will review medication instructions, let you know when to stop eating and drinking, and answer any questions you may have.

## Your Surgical Experience

On your day of surgery, the support person accompanying you to UnaSource Surgery Center must be a responsible adult. Wear loose, comfortable clothes and non-skid, sturdy shoes. Do not wear jewelry or contact lenses. Remember to bring:

- Driver's License
- Insurance Cards
- Any durable medical equipment prescribed by your surgeon

Medications to <b>take</b> before surgery	Medications to <b>stop</b> taking before surgery

After you have registered at the Front Desk, you will be escorted to a private Patient Care room; the person accompanying you will join you after you are admitted. You will meet the anesthesiologist who will talk about the type of anesthesia that will be used during your surgery. Before surgery, the anesthesiologist may provide a peripheral nerve block or insert a pain pump catheter to keep you comfortable after surgery. Also before surgery, you will receive a sequential compression device with stockings that pump air around your calves.

During your surgery, the responsible adult accompanying you at UnaSource will wait in our Lobby. Beverages, Wi-Fi, reading materials, television and comfortable seating are available for your waiting guest.

After surgery you will return to your private Patient Care room for recovery and your surgeon will speak with the person accompanying you in our private consultation room.

If your surgeon sent your prescriptions to the pharmacy on the UnaSource campus, a nurse will let your support person know to pick them up while you are in surgery.

Once you wake up you will be offered something to drink and a light snack.

## Your Team of Professionals

Surgeon
Physician Assistant
Anesthesiologist
CRNA (Nurse Anesthetist)
Pre-Operative Nurse

Operating Room Nurse
Surgical Technologist
Recovery Nurse
Clinical Technician/Nursing Assistant
Physical Therapist



# Discharge Planning

A registered nurse will review all of your surgeon's orders and instructions with you and the person accompanying you. You will receive a folder to take home with copies of all the orders and instructions.

A physical therapist will review the use of your walker, how to use the stairs with your walker, and will also review the exercises ordered by your surgeon. You may put weight on your leg right away. The walker will be used until your surgeon advances you to the cane.

You will have a knee brace on and will need to wear the brace until the peripheral nerve block has worn off. **This knee brace is to help prevent you from falling.**

You may be sent home with a sequential compression device to wear at home for 2 weeks at times when you are inactive. Calf pain, tenderness, redness, or swelling must be reported to your surgeon immediately.

**Your surgeon will prescribe the appropriate post op meds for you.**





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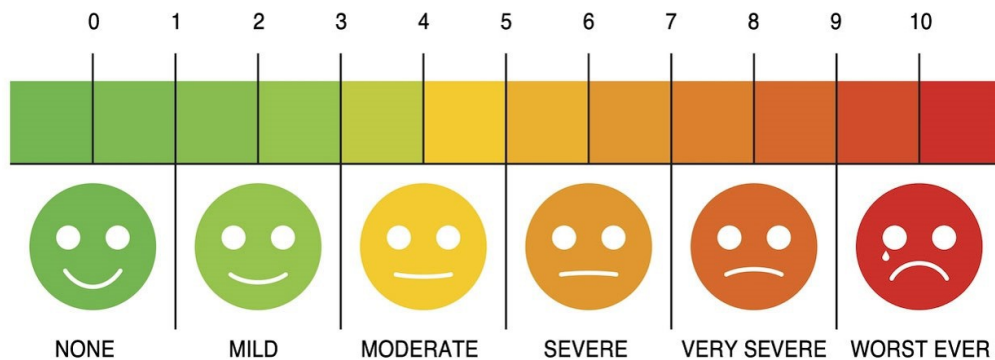
# **WHAT TO EXPECT DURING RECOVERY**

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# Pain Management

Most people will experience discomfort after surgery and it is normal. The pain scale below will be used to determine your pain level during your recovery at UnaSource Surgery Center and also once you are at home.



The goal of pain management is to lessen discomfort so you can rest, be mobile, and effectively participate in physical therapy. The plan to manage your postoperative pain starts before you even have surgery.

Prior to surgery you will receive a peripheral nerve block and/or pain pump that will help keep you comfortable. Additionally, you will receive a “cocktail” of medications before surgery including an anti-nausea medication, Tylenol, and an anti-inflammatory; these medications will also provide pain relief for you after surgery.

Your surgeon will escribe several prescriptions to use at home for pain. A UnaSource team member will review those prescriptions with you. Many of our surgeons will escribe to the pharmacy located in the next building. We will direct your support person appropriately.

At home, you should take the pain medication on a regular schedule and as prescribed so you stay ahead of the pain. It can take some time to get the pain to a tolerable level if the interval between doses is too long. Take pain medication with food to reduce the chance of becoming nauseated.

Placing ice over your surgical site and keeping your surgical site elevated may also lessen discomfort. Use an ice pack for 20-30 minutes 4-6 times per day. Do not place the ice pack directly on skin.

## Side Effects from Pain Medications

Nausea: Take pain medications with food to reduce the chance of nausea.

Constipation: Common while taking pain medications. A stool softener such as Colace will be prescribed by your surgeon to minimize constipation. A high fiber diet including prune juice, and increased activity will also help lessen constipation.

# Physical Therapy

- In home Physical Therapy may be arranged for you based on your surgeon's preference.

## Moving Around

The peripheral nerve block you received from the anesthesiologist will cause numbness and possible weakness to your surgical leg.

**To help prevent falling, it is important that you are cautious when moving around and that you use your walker at all times.**

- Wear non-skid shoes
- Keep the knee brace on every time you are up walking
- Ambulate with the walker at all times

Plan on using the walker for 1 – 3 weeks after surgery and then a cane for the next 6 – 8 weeks. Remember to use the sequential compression device whenever you are not up and walking. Do NOT walk with the sequential device wraps on your calves - they will slip down to your ankles and create a fall hazard.

## Total Hip Replacement Precautions

- ✓ Follow the instructions from your surgeon.
- ✓ Elevate your leg on your surgical side when resting.
- ✓ Use an elevated toilet seat.
- ✓ Use small steps to the side for turning.
- ✓ Use a shower chair while showering.
- ⊘ Do not step backwards with the surgical leg.
- ⊘ Do not cross your legs at your knees or your ankles.
- ⊘ Do not internally or externally rotate the leg.
- ⊘ Do not abduct (lift your leg to the side) except with Physical Therapy.
- ⊘ Do not lie on your surgical side. When you are lying on your non-surgical side, place a pillow between your legs.
- ⊘ Do not bend your hip past 90 degrees.
- ⊘ No leaning forward while in a sitting position; you will need help putting on your shoes and socks
- ⊘ Knees must not be higher than hips while seated.



## Caring for your Incision

- Always wash your hands before and after touching the incision area.
- Wear clean clothing every day and use clean linens.
- If you have an ace wrap around your knee, you may remove it that first evening at home.
- The dressing over your incision should stay on for 7 days, or as directed by your surgeon. The dressing can get wet in the shower.
- You may shower 24 hours after your surgery, unless you have a pain pump. If you do have a pain pump you may shower when the pain pump is removed, on the fourth day after surgery.
- When showering after the dressing is removed, you may gently wash over the incision with a mild soap and water.
- Do not bathe in a tub until directed by your surgeon.
- Do not apply any ointments or creams to your incision unless your surgeon has asked you to do so.
- Some drainage from the surgical site can be expected during the first 7 days after your surgery.

Some swelling and discoloration over or around the incision is normal and usually noticed towards the end of the day. Swelling and bruising may move down the leg and even into the feet.

To minimize swelling:

- Elevate the operative leg on pillows several times a day for 30 minutes each time. Your toes should be above the level of your heart. For total hip replacement, do this by leaning back on the couch or bed so the hip joint is not over-flexed.
- Place ice over the incision and surrounding areas as a mild pain reliever.
- Do not use heat as it may cause more swelling.

## When to Call the Surgeon's Office



- A temperature above 100.5 F taken at least twice over four hours
- Appearance of red, hot, swollen incision
- A sudden increase or persistent increase in swelling in your surgical leg
- Unusual pain in your calf, knee, thigh or hip
- A calf that becomes swollen, tender, warm or reddened
- New or an increase in drainage from your incision

**IF YOU HAVE SHORTNESS OF BREATH OR CHEST PAIN,  
CALL 911 IMMEDIATELY.**







## **Hip Replacement Pre-Op Instructions Checklist**

Your surgeon's office has scheduled you for Hip Replacement Surgery here at UnaSource Surgery Center. About 1-2 weeks prior to your scheduled surgery date one of our UnaSource team members will call to review your health history, provide instructions for surgery, and answer your questions.

**You will need a responsible adult to accompany you to the surgery center, this person must be 18 years of age or older and must stay at the facility the entire time you are here. We allow one visitor per person; 2 visitors are allowed if the patient is under 18 years of age. Once discharged, a responsible adult must stay with you 24-48 hours after surgery.**

**Be sure to complete these 2 important steps prior to our call:**

- Watch our educational Joint Replacement Video at: [www.unasourcesurgery.com/joint-replacement/](http://www.unasourcesurgery.com/joint-replacement/) Note: there is NO surgical footage in this video
- Flip through this Hip Replacement Experience Guide.

Our joint replacement video and experience guide are extremely helpful resources to prepare you for a successful surgery and recovery.

## **Day Before Surgery**

- You will receive your arrival time the day before your surgery between the hours of 3pm-5pm. If you are scheduled on a Monday, you will receive a call the Friday before your surgery.
- **Follow all instructions given to you regarding which of your medications to take and which of your medications to hold.**
- Do not eat anything after midnight the night before your surgery. You may have clear liquids (any liquid you can see through) up to three hours before your arrival time.
- **Drink 10-12 ounces of a carb rich clear drink 3 hours prior to arrival or the night before** if your arrival is early. **Please choose between 100% no sugar added white grape juice, Gatorade, or Ensure Pre-Surgery Clear.**
- Please shower with Chlorhexidine Gluconate 4% (CHG) skin cleanser 2 days before and the morning of surgery. Do not apply any creams or lotions and do not shave the surgical site.

## **Diabetic or Weight Loss Medications**

- If you are diabetic and you test your blood sugar regularly, please check it within **two hours** of your arrival time and let our staff know your result.
- If you take any of the following medications Ozempic, Wegovy, Trulicity, Mounjaro, Adlyxin, Byetta, Zepbound, Rybelsus, Victoza, or any other injectable type II diabetic or weight loss medications, **please hold that medication for 1 week. You are allowed clear liquids only for 24 hours prior to your day of surgery.**

## **Day of Surgery**

- Wear loose fitting, comfortable clothes. Shoes should be supportive with closed heels.
- Remove all jewelry and body piercings. Leave all personal belongings at home.
- Remove contact lenses, bring glasses if applicable.

## **What to Bring**

- Bring your insurance card, picture ID, and any expected payments.
- Bring a brace if prescribed for your recovery.
- If the nurse instructed you of the need to provide a urine sample upon arrival, please let our staff know when you arrive.





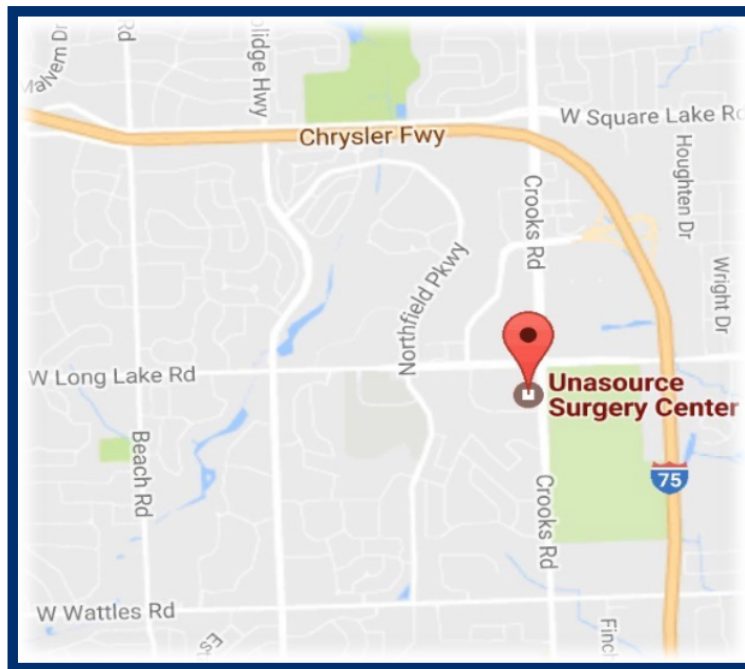




# Joint Replacement Education Video

Watch online at:

[www.unasourcesurgery.com/joint-replacement](http://www.unasourcesurgery.com/joint-replacement)



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[www.facebook.com/unasourcesurgery](https://www.facebook.com/unasourcesurgery)