



Andrew D. Pearle, MD
Attending Orthopedic Surgeon
Chief, Sports Medicine Institute
535 East 70th Street
New York, NY 10021
Tel (212) 774-2878
Fax (212) 774-2798

TOTAL KNEE REPLACEMENT INFORMATION SHEET

You've scheduled your surgery! Here is a summary of the next steps and some things to expect.

PREOPERATIVE APPOINTMENTS:

A representative from the HSS Patient Access Department will contact you to schedule your preoperative appointments. If you prefer to contact them directly, or think you may have missed their call, their number is **(212) 774-2305**. Please allow 48hrs from the time you book your surgery before contacting this department. This is to allow us to input your surgery into the HSS system, and prepare Patient Access for your call.

You will be scheduled for the following appointments:

1) **Medical Assessment**

This is an appointment with an Internist at HSS who will clear you for your surgery. He or she will be sure that you meet the health requirements in order to proceed with surgery. (location of this appt. varies depending on the doctor)

2) **PreSurgical Screening**

During this appointment, a nurse in the PreSurgical Screening Dept. will review your health history, draw blood for laboratory testing, and perform an EKG. (These tests are done at 535 E. 70th St., 3rd fl., New York, NY 10021)

3) **CT Scan of the Knee**

This test is done for the sole purpose of planning the procedure and is NOT a diagnostic test, therefore, you will NOT receive a call from a clinician to discuss the results. (This scan is done at 535 E. 70th St., 3rd fl., New York, NY 10021)

4) **Knee Education Class**

This class is taught by registered nurses in collaboration with physical therapists and social work case managers. You will be provided with an overview of what to expect, including detailed information on:

- Exercises pertaining to your total knee replacement.
- What to bring on the day of surgery and what to expect on the morning of surgery.
- Post-operative recovery and pain management.

5) **Other**

During your visit with Dr. Pearle, you will be notified if your surgery or health history requires additional testing or specialty clearances.



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DURABLE MEDICAL EQUIPMENT:

A vendor representative from Eschen Prosthetics & Orthotics will contact you to discuss the ice machine that Dr. Pearle recommends for you to use postoperatively. The rental ice machine is not covered by insurance and costs \$250 for 2 weeks. If you decide to decline this equipment, please be prepared at home with a lot of ice and/or icepacks. Eschen's contact number is **(212) 606-1662**.

CASE MANAGEMENT:

During the first 2-4 weeks after surgery, a nurse and physical therapist will be coming to your home to assess and treat you. A social worker from Hospital for Special Surgery will be in touch with you within the week prior to surgery to go over this process. The social worker at HSS can be reached at **(212) 774-7300**.

POST-OPERATIVE APPOINTMENT:

If you have not yet scheduled your post-operative appt., please call (212) 774-2878, option 3. This visit is scheduled around 3-4 weeks from the date of your surgery on a Monday with our Physician's Assistant. X-rays will be done at your first post-op visit, prior to seeing the Physician's Assistant (Nikki Fein, R-PAC or Nick Abel, R-PAC.)

Your next appointment (following the postop visit) is typically 3-4 weeks from your surgery date. At that time, you will be scheduled to see Dr. Pearle.

If you have any questions regarding the above information, please call us (212) 774-2878, opt.3

DISABILITY FORMS:

If you require disability forms (or a temporary parking placard) to be completed by the office, please submit these to the office as soon as possible. We will need your return-to-work date, as well as the information for where these forms need to be returned to.

We can grant up to three months off of work for a total knee replacement, although typically patients return to work much sooner, depending on their job duties.

NAVIGATING YOUR INSURANCE:

As it becomes increasingly difficult for most patients to navigate the ever changing insurance carriers and their policies, we would like to assist in preparing you for your upcoming surgery. The guideline below will provide you with the necessary information you will need to obtain from your carrier to establish your financial responsibility.



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KEY INSURANCE TERMS

Your financial responsibility is set by the plan you selected with your carrier. The key terms you will need to be aware of are;

- **DEDUCTIBLE** - The amount you must satisfy each benefit year before your plan will start paying on any medical claims.
- **CO-INSURANCE** - The percentage that you are obliged to pay for covered medical services after you've satisfied any co-payment or deductible required by your health insurance plan. For example, if your coinsurance is 80/20, that means that your insurer covers 80% of annual medical expenses and you are responsible for the remaining 20%.
- **OUT-OF-POCKET MAXIMUM** - Your total out-of-pocket responsibility during your plan/benefit year which may or may not include your annual deductible. Once this amount is satisfied by you, your plan will then cover all in-network services at 100%.

Please keep in mind that even if Dr. Pearle is in-network with your insurance company, your financial responsibility depends on the specifics of your individual plan. Our billing office, Ivolution, will be contacting your insurance to obtain authorization for your surgery and make an inquiry into your benefits. If your plan reveals that you have high out-of-pocket costs, a representative will be in touch with you to go over these benefits, provide a cost estimate, and possibly collect a deposit prior to surgery. If you have additional questions, please contact our billing office, ***IV Medical Services, (877) 893-5790***.

SURGERY CPT CODE (S) AND TIME IN THE OR

CPT (Current Procedural Terminology) codes are published by the American Medical Association and are used by insurance companies and medical providers to identify medical procedures. The codes that will be billed for your surgery are;

- CPT code for a Total Knee replacement: 27447
- Time in the OR: 120 minutes

ANESTHESIOLOGY & HOSPITALIZATION

East River Medical Anesthesiology, P.C. is the Anesthesiology group that will be used for your surgery. They participate with Aetna, Blue Cross Blue Shield, Cigna, Connecticare, HIP, Health plan of New York, Oxford, United, and Medicare. They recommend that you contact their billing company, Billing Services (BSI) or your insurance to confirm coverage under your plan. BSI can be reached at **(888) 877-3850**. They will need the CPT codes (listed above) for your surgery as well as the time that you will be in the OR.

The ***Insurance Advisory Dept.*** at HSS can also help you confirm that your hospital services are covered. This includes radiology, operating room charges, lab work, etc. They can be reached at **(212) 774-2607**.

THE PATIENT EDUCATION CLASSROOM IS MOVING!

Beginning on **Monday, August 5**, the Patient Education Classroom will be located at: **Room 2W-214, Main Hospital, 2nd Floor**

Our contact information will remain the same. Please call **212.606.1263** with any questions.

