

This document is meant to be a general educational resource for Dr. Tatem's patients undergoing male sling placement and its guidance will apply to most patients in most situations. If Dr. Tatem provides personalized instructions, please write these down on the bottom of this document and follow them.

Please read this document in its entirety as it will answer many common questions before and following scrotal surgery. An electronic copy of this document is available at Dr. Tatem's website, <https://indymenshealth.com/patient-information/>.

### A) Post-Op Schedule Summary

- **1 Days Following Surgery:** Most men will not return to clinic until their regular 2-week post-operative check. However, if you have a foley catheter placed after surgery by Dr. Tatem after successful sphincter placement it is critically important that you return to our clinic for catheter removal the very next day!
- **2 Weeks Following Surgery:** Regular post-operative check. Dr. Tatem will examine your incisions to ensure everything is healing well.
  - Please bring your practice pump with you at this appointment.
  - Following this appointment, you will need to start feeling the pump in your scrotum and compare this to your practice pump. Do NOT squeeze the pump in your scrotum. Your goal should be to become more familiar with your device so you're ready to use it at your 6-week appointment following activation.
- **6 Weeks Following Surgery:** Sphincter activation and teaching visit.
  - Please bring your practice pump with you at this appointment as well.
  - Dr. Tatem will activate your sphincter and ensure you can reliably squeeze your pump. If you have trouble safely squeezing your pump, Dr. Tatem may elect to deactivate your device until you're comfortable and confident in using it.

### B) Medications Following Surgery

- Our office will call in the medications you will need following surgery approximately 1 week before your surgery date. Please pick these up as soon as they are available and **bring them with you** on your surgery date so you can review them with Dr. Tatem.
- Depending on your insurance, the pharmacy may state that a 'prior authorization' is required prior to filling your prescription. **Our office does NOT submit prior authorizations for these medications.** If your pharmacy tells you this, please download the smartphone app 'GoodRx' ([www.goodrx.com](http://www.goodrx.com)) and use the provided coupon for an affordable cash price. Your pharmacy can help you with this process. You may need to

ask your pharmacy to send the script to a different pharmacy to get the best price (Kroger is typically the cheapest).

- Dr. Tatem's office strongly believes in a **non-narcotic** approach to pain management following artificial urinary sphincter placement. Narcotics (such as Norco or Percocet) can lead to constipation, breathing problems, and addiction.
- Fortunately, the medications you will be given (along with practical measures such as supportive underwear and intermittent icing) have been PROVEN to provide EXCELLENT pain relief!!
- If you still feel like your pain is poorly controlled despite practical measures and the below medications, please call our office and we will provide you with a script for a 'non-narcotic narcotic' known as tramadol (aka Ultram).
- You should have been provided prescriptions for 5 different medications to take following surgery. These are:
  1. Celecoxib 200 mg (aka Celebrex)
    - An anti-inflammatory to reduce post-operative discomfort.
    - Please take 1 capsule once daily following surgery. Can increase to twice daily if needed.
    - This medication is very safe, but is processed by the kidneys. As such, **if you have any sort of medical kidney disease please let our office know**. A different medication may be provided.
  2. Acetaminophen 500 mg (aka Tylenol)
    - Another anti-inflammatory to reduce post-operative discomfort.
    - Please take 2 tablets once every 6 hours following surgery.
    - Can use an over-the-counter formulation if more cost-effective.
  3. Gabapentin 300 mg (aka Neurontin)
    - A pain medication specifically designed to address nerve pain.
    - Please take 1 capsule every 8 hours only AS NEEDED for pain.
    - Can make you drowsy. Please do not drive or operate heavy machinery if you take this medication.
  4. Trimethoprim 160 mg / Sulfamethoxazole 800 mg (aka Bactrim DS)
    - Your post-operative antibiotic.
    - Please take 1 tablet twice daily for 1 week following surgery.
    - **This may reduce the chance of developing infection! It is very important that you not forget this medication and take it as prescribed.**
    - If you are allergic to medications containing sulfa, a different antibiotic will be prescribed.

### 5. Docusate sodium 100 mg (aka Colace)

- A stool softener. Constipation is common after any type of surgery and can contribute to post-operative discomfort.
- Please take 1 capsule twice daily as needed for constipation.
- You should have 1-2 formed stool each day. Please stop taking this medication if you develop loose stools.

## C) One Month Prior To Surgery

- Please arrange to take off approximately 1 week from work following surgery. You will be able to return to work after this week, but should not lift anything heavier than 10 pounds until 2 weeks following surgery.
- If your job is physically demanding, you may need to request 'light duty' until 2 weeks following surgery.
- Most patients will be requested to attend a pre-operative appointment to obtain surgical clearance.
- This is an appointment to check certain patients' hearts and lungs prior to undergoing anesthesia. Some patients may be asked to see their cardiologist as well.
- If you have asked to attend a pre-operative appointment, **it is very important that you make this appointment.**
- **If you miss your pre-operative appointment your surgery date may have to be delayed or cancelled.**
- If you have an unexpected circumstance arise, please call Dr. Tatem's surgery scheduler. Her extension can be reached by calling the clinic number at the top of the page.

## D) One Week Prior To Surgery

- Please make sure that you arrange for transportation to and from the hospital on your surgery day.
- Please make sure that you have picked up your medications and make sure to bring them with you on your surgery day. You should have 5 different medications.
- If you do not already own them, **please purchase a jock strap or tight fitting pair of underwear (baseball sliding shorts are excellent for this, <https://amzn.to/34H865Q>).** These can be purchased at the provided Amazon link or at any sports supply store. Please bring these with you on your surgery date.
- With the approval of your primary care physician and / or cardiologist:

- **STOP ALL ASPIRIN CONTAINING MEDICATIONS** (ex. Anacin, Excedrin, Pepto-Bismol). Check any cold or pain medication bottles to make certain they do not contain aspirin.
- **STOP ANY BLOOD THINNING MEDICATIONS SUCH AS: WARFARIN, COUMADIN, PLAVIX, XARELTO, ELIQUIS, BRILINTA, OR EFFIENT.** Some patients may remain on blood thinners if mandated by another physician, but this **MUST** be discussed with Dr. Tatem explicitly prior to proceeding with surgery.

### **E) The Day Before Surgery**

- **DO NOT EAT OR DRINK ANYTHING AFTER MIDNIGHT THE DAY BEFORE YOUR SURGERY.** If you need to take any medications, please do so with a small sip of water.
- Please make sure you have the following items ready to bring with you to the hospital:
  1. Your medications (there should be 5)
  2. A pair of tight-fitting underwear
  3. A pair of LOOSE-fitting clothing. Pajama pants with a comfortable t-shirt are a good option.
  4. Your insurance card and personal identification

### **F) The Day Of Surgery!!**

- Please arrive at the hospital at least 2 hours prior to your scheduled surgery start time.
- Bring with you the previously mentioned 4 items.
- Also please remember that **your sphincter will not be turned on until at least 6 weeks following surgery.** This means that you will likely still leak urine immediately following sphincter placement. If you normally require pads or Depends, please make sure to bring plenty of extras so you have some for the ride home.
- After registration, you will be taken to the pre-operative area and asked to change into a gown. Please remove all of your clothing prior to putting on your gown.
- You will be given some of the same oral medications you were prescribed prior to surgery. This will reduce your discomfort immediately following surgery.
- Dr. Tatem will meet you in the pre-operative area to complete some final paperwork and give you the opportunity to ask any final questions prior to surgery.
- Following surgery, you will be given the chance to pee on your own. Although most men can do so, some men may have difficulty.
- If you're not able to pee on your own, you may have a temporary foley catheter placed by Dr. Tatem. This is a thin, flexible tube that will help empty your bladder.

- This catheter will be removed the morning after surgery. If you have a catheter placed and do not already have an appointment for catheter removal, please call our office at (317) 564-5104. **It is critically important, should a catheter be required, that it is removed the very next morning. Do not miss this appointment!**
- Dr. Tatem sees patients throughout the Indianapolis area, but all catheter removals are performed at the Men's Health Center.
- If you saw Dr. Tatem at a different clinic, do NOT return to this same clinic for this appointment as you'll be instructed to drive to the address below.
- The Men's Health Center is located at:

8240 Naab Road  
Suite 220  
Indianapolis, IN 46260

- For the first 24 hours following surgery, please refrain from making important decisions, driving, or drinking alcohol.
- When you get home, please drink plenty of water. If you are hungry, please start with clear liquids (sports drinks are great for this) and light foods such as jello or crackers. Avoid greasy or heavy foods.
- You may take your gabapentin or acetaminophen as needed for pain. You will not need to start your antibiotic or take another dose of your celecoxib until the following morning. Please start taking your docusate the evening of surgery.

### **G) Recovery Prior To And Following Your 2 Week Post-Op Appointment**

- Please take your medications as prescribed. If you feel like your pain is not adequately addressed, please call our office at (317) 564-5104.
- You may notice some swelling or black and blue bruising. This is very common and is almost never a reason to worry. It may even increase slightly over the next several days but will start to resolve before your 2-week post-op appointment.
- You are free to take a shower 48 hours after your surgery. Please use sponge baths until this time.
- Do NOT take any baths or submerge your skin opening under water for at least 1 month following surgery.
- Please wear the supportive underwear that you purchased prior to surgery as much as possible. This will reduce your swelling and discomfort.

- You will need to apply ice packs for 20-minute intervals several times a day for the first 4-5 days following surgery to reduce swelling and discomfort. Re-using bags of frozen peas or corn is helpful for this.
- Your skin opening is closed with dissolvable stitches and glue. Please do not pick at it as the glue will flake off with time. Playing with your incision may increase your risk of infection. When you're allowed to shower, let water gently wash over this area. Do NOT scrub the area and please pat dry lightly.
- Please avoid lifting anything heavier than 10 pounds for the first 2 weeks following surgery. You may return to work as previously instructed.
- Do not put any direct pressure on the incision for long periods of time. Do not straddle anything or squat for 2 months. This includes activities that involve bicycles, motorcycles, ATVs, jet skis or horseback riding. This also includes any activity that requires bringing the knee toward the chest in any fashion (high steps, ladders or walking in sand).
- It is necessary to change the way you sit as your incision is between your anus and scrotum. Do not sit directly your incision; instead sit with your weight shifted back onto your buttocks. You may use an air-filled donut, soft cushion or other type of pillow to sit on, especially for the first 4 weeks after surgery.
- Many men will report a 'burning' or ache that's more pronounced in one testicle. This is a normal part of the healing process and will resolve with time.
- Please take your antibiotic as prescribed. This is very important. Please take your pain medication and stool softener as prescribed.
- Please abstain from all sexual contact until after your 2-week appointment. This includes masturbation.
- If you are experiencing significant itching following surgery, it is permissible to use an over-the-counter topical hydrocortisone cream on affected areas EXCEPT FOR THE INCISION. Please do not apply any creams or ointments to the incision or stitches under any circumstances.

## H) Your 2 Week Post-Op Appointment

- Usually, most of the pain and swelling is gone. Your skin-opening should be well-healed, but the tissue surrounding it may be slightly firm and puffy. This will feel like a 'healing ridge.' This is normal.
- Please bring your practice pump to your 2-week post-op appointment. Dr. Tatem will show how your practice pump compares to the pump in your scrotum. You should start

feeling the pump in your scrotum on a regular basis to learn its shape and orientation. Do not 'squeeze' the pump. Just practice feeling it lightly.

- Please continue to follow the previously mentioned activity restrictions as your body continues to heal over the following 2 months.

### **I) Your 6 Week Post-Op Appointment**

- Please bring your practice pump to this appointment as well.
- Dr. Tatem will activate your pump at this visit and ensure you can squeeze it safely.
- If you have trouble safely squeezing your pump, Dr. Tatem may elect to deactivate your device until you're comfortable and confident in using it.

### **H) When To Call The Office Or Go To The Emergency Room**

- Fortunately, complications with artificial urinary sphincter placement in our practice are extremely rare. That being said, keep an eye out for the following signs and symptoms. We are always happy to see our post-operative patients on a same day basis if you have any concerns about your surgery.
- Although your local Emergency Room may be closer, if you are feeling well enough to see us in the clinic, we always prefer to evaluate our patients 'in-person'.
- When in doubt, come see Dr. Tatem in clinic.
- Concerning symptoms include:
  - Fevers over 101 F (38.3 C) with shaking and chills.
  - Inability to urinate.
  - Having pain that is not controlled with your pain medication.
  - Increasing redness or pus from your incision.
  - Any allergic reaction to your prescribed medications such as hives, rash, nausea, or vomiting.

**Thank you for taking the time to read this important information! More information, including instructional videos and a copy of this document, can be found on Dr. Tatem's personal website at [www.alexatemd.com](http://www.alexatemd.com) and our practice website [www.indymenshealth.com](http://www.indymenshealth.com). You can always call our clinic at (317) 564-5104.**

