



Physical Therapy Prescription – Arthroscopic Rotator Cuff Repair (Massive)

MOON (Multicenter Orthopaedic Outcomes Network) Delayed (Blue) Protocol

Name: _____ Date: _____

Diagnosis: R / L arthroscopic rotator cuff repair Date of Surgery: _____

Frequency: 2-3 times per week **beginning 6 weeks after surgery**

WEEKS 0 – 6: Period of protection → no therapy for the first 6 weeks

- **Sling with abduction pillow:** Must wear at all times except for hygiene
- **Range of Motion:** No shoulder ROM allowed; elbow/forearm/wrist/hand motion ONLY
- **Exercises:** Pendulums and grip strengthening; NO shoulder strengthening or motion exercises permitted

THERAPY Phase I (Weeks 6 – 10 after surgery)

- **Sling with abduction pillow:** Discontinue
- **Range of Motion:** PROM only, including FF, ER, and ABD (within a comfortable range); No AROM/AAROM
- **Exercises:** Continue pendulums; begin scapular exercises including elevation with shrugs, depression, retraction, and protraction
- **Modalities:** Per therapist, including electrical stimulation, ultrasound, heat (before), ice (after)

THERAPY Phase II (Weeks 10 – 14 after surgery)

- **Range of Motion:** Progress PROM and begin AAROM → progress slowly
 - Week 10-11: perform while supine
 - Week 11-12: perform while back is propped up 45°
 - Week 12-14: perform while in an upright position
 - Use unaffected arm, stick, or cane to move postoperative arm into FF, ER, and ABD
- **Therapeutic Exercises:** Progress Phase I exercises; no shoulder strengthening yet
- **Modalities:** Per therapist, including electrical stimulation, ultrasound, heat (before), ice (after)

THERAPY Phase III (Weeks 14 – 18 after surgery)

- **Range of Motion:** Begin to AROM in all planes → progress slowly
- **Therapeutic Exercises:** Begin isometric exercises (use pillow or folded towel without moving the shoulder)
- **Modalities:** Per therapist, including electrical stimulation, ultrasound, heat (before), ice (after)

THERAPY Phase IV (Weeks 18 – 22 after surgery)

- **Range of Motion:** Progress to full, painless, AROM
- **Therapeutic Exercises:** Progress Phase III exercises, begin gentle resistance exercises, including resisted scapular strengthening, rotator cuff strengthening, and deltoid strengthening
 - Resistance exercises should be done 3 days/week, with rest between sessions
 - **Do not do full or empty-can exercises → these place too much stress on the rotator cuff**
- **Modalities:** Per therapist, including electrical stimulation, ultrasound, heat (before), ice (after)

Signature: _____

Date: _____