

Commonwealth Orthopaedics is committed to providing top quality health care to our patients in a safe manner. Everyone has a role in making health care safe — physicians, nurses, therapists, physician assistants, technicians, managers — AND, OF COURSE, YOU – THE PATIENT. Health care organizations across the country are working to make health care safety a priority. You can also play a vital role in making your care safe by becoming an involved and informed member of your health care team.

Be Actively Involved in Your Health Care

- Speak up if you have questions or concerns to prevent medical errors and to get the best possible care for your needs
- Ask questions
- Expect answers that you can understand
- Ask a family member or friend to be there with you
- Learn more about your medical condition and treatment
- Keep a list of all of the medications you are taking, including prescribed medications, over the counter medications, vitamins and herbal supplements
- Make sure you understand the reason that you are taking a medication
- Ask the pharmacist when you have questions or concerns about taking your medication
- Get the results of any test or procedure
- Call your doctor to find out the results of the test
- Talk about options involved in your care and treatment
- Make sure you know what will happen when you need a procedure or surgery
- Before you leave any health care facility, ask your health care provider to explain the discharge instructions and the treatment plan for home
- Visit your primary care physician regularly

Seek information regarding Advance Directives/Living Will

Congress passed the Patient Self-Determination Act in 1991. This law makes it clear that you have the right to make decisions regarding your medical care including the right to accept or refuse treatment and the right to make an advance directive. The law also requires health care facilities/agencies to discuss advance health care directives with you as you enter their facility.

Commonwealth Orthopaedics' Surgical Suites Policy and Procedure on Advance Directives

The surgical suites do not honor advance directives. In every instance of emergency or life threatening situations, advanced cardiac life support procedures will be instituted and patients will be transferred to the hospital. If the patient has an advance directive, the document will be placed in the patient's medical record. In the event of a transfer to a hospital, the advance directive will remain with the patient when transferred.

For more information about advance directives please visit:

<http://www.legalhelpmate.com/health-care-directive-patient-act.aspx>

http://www.abanet.org/publiced/practical/patient_self-determination_act.html

Keeping You Safe at Commonwealth Orthopaedics

- Accurate patient identification – We will ask you to identify yourself by asking you to state your name, verify your birth date or ask to see photo identification.
- Correct surgical site identification – All of the staff members will be asking you to identify the correct surgical site by stating the site and pointing to the correct site. A green dot will be placed on the correct surgical site and then the surgeon will initial the site.
- If you have any questions or concerns, ask your doctor, nurse or other healthcare provider.
- Have a family member or friend accompany you.

Medication safety

- You will be asked what medications you are taking daily and if you have any allergies to medications or foods.
- If possible, write down your medical history, special conditions, illnesses and medications that you take. These include medications that are prescribed, over the counter, vitamins, and herbal supplements.

Reduce the risk of infections

- You have the right to ask your health care provider if they have washed their hands
- Keep any dressing, bandage or cast clean and dry
- If antibiotics are prescribed, you should take all of the medication
- Wash your hands before and after touching your bandage
- Do not put anything on your incision area that is not prescribed

Be sure you understand your discharge instructions.

If you have any questions or concerns about patient safety...please contact your physician, the office manager or **Maureen Cook at mcook@c-o-r.com**.

www.c-o-r.com

Alexandria • Arlington • Burke • Fairfax • Fair Oaks
Herndon • Reston • Springfield • Tysons Corner

Accredited by the



ACCREDITATION
ASSOCIATION
for AMBULATORY
HEALTH CARE, INC.