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## **Ano-Rectal Discharge Instructions**

- 1. Drink 8-10 glasses of non-carbonated, non-caffeine containing, beverages per day.
- 2. Take 1 dose of Metamucil 2 times a day for the first 14 days.
  - a. Then reduce the dose to once a day after that for the next 14 days.
  - b. Then, if bowel movements are normal and regular, can stop the fiber supplement.
- 3. Take a stool softener OTC (e.g. Colace or Senna) twice a day for the first 7 days.
  - a. Then reduce the dose to once a day for the next 7 days.
  - b. Then, if bowel movements are normal and regular, can stop the stool softener.
- 4. Take Lactulose laxative once a day for the first 3 days after surgery.
- 5. Eat a high fiber diet.
- 6. If applicable, remove the outer bandages on the day after surgery before your first shower or on anytime before your first bowel movement.
- 7. Also, remove the gauze anal packing upon having your first bowel movement or with your first shower.
- 8. Resume normal activities. No heavy lifting, straining, pushing, pulling, or exercise for the next 3-4 weeks.
- 9. Take warm water sitz baths for 10-20 minutes 3-4 times a day and after a bowel movement as needed for comfort.
- 10. For postoperative pain a prescription is provided.
- 11. Should you become constipated with no bowel movement for one day, take over-the-counter Miralax at the recommended dose. If there are no results in six hours. Repeat. If still no results by the following morning, call the office for further instructions.
- 12. You will have blood in your bowel movement for a few days to a few weeks. If it becomes steady and/or excessive, call the office for further instructions.
- 13. Mucous discharge and swollen anal tissue are common after surgery and usually does **not** indicate a problem. Discharge can last up to 2 weeks.
- 14. Call to make an appointment for a post-op visit in <u>3-4</u> weeks after surgery.
- 15. DO NOT take any aspirin-containing products for at least 2 weeks. Tylenol/Ibuprofen are approved.
- 16. Most stitches will dissolve. It is normal to see them in the toilet bowl.
- 17. If you have further questions or concerns please do not hesitate to call the office.

## High Fiber Foods

You need 25-38 grams of fiber each day

To meet this goal, take fiber supplements if directed by your doctor, and choose these fiber-rich foods.

Fruits, such as apples, raspberries, plums and pears Grains, such as whole-grain cereals, oat bran, and brown rice Vegetables, such as peas, spinach, broccoli, potatoes, and artichokes Legumes, such as lentils and navy, pinto, or kidney beans