

AFTER SURGERY

Postoperative Instructions: Hand & Wrist Surgery (Soft Dressing)

Getting Home

- An adult must drive you home after surgery.
- You may feel dizzy from anesthesia and pain medication.
- Avoid driving, operating machinery, drinking alcohol, or making major decisions for 24 hours.

Dressing Care

- Your hand/wrist will be in a soft dressing — this must remain dry at all times.
- On the third day after surgery, you may remove the dressing and shower.
- After showering, place a band-aid over the incision site and cover with the ace bandage.

Medications

A narcotic pain medication may be prescribed to take as needed. If a prescription pain medication is needed, it will be either a narcotic or Journavx® (suzetrigine), a non-opioid option.

Narcotic Pain Medication

- Take as needed, following the instructions on your prescription bottle.
- May cause nausea, vomiting, or constipation — a stool softener will also be prescribed.
- Do not drink alcohol or drive while taking this medication.
- Wean off as soon as your pain allows; transition to over-the-counter Tylenol (acetaminophen) as needed.

Journavx® (suzetrigine)

- Bring your prescription with you on the day of surgery — your first 100 mg dose is given in the preop holding area.
- Beginning 12 hours later: 50 mg every 12 hours, typically continued for up to 2 weeks.
- Swallow tablets whole — do not chew or crush.

Activity

- Do not use your operative hand until your first postoperative visit.
- Elevate the hand/wrist to reduce pain and swelling.

Follow-Up Appointments

- You will see Dr. Kim or her PA 7–10 days after surgery. If you're unsure of your appointment date, call (503) 717-7060 to verify.

If you're experiencing a medical emergency, call 911 or go to the nearest emergency room.