

## Physical Therapy Prescription – Cartilage Restoration Patella / Trochlea

**Procedure:** Patellofemoral \_\_\_\_\_

**Frequency:** 2-3 times per week for 6 weeks

**PHASE I (Weeks 0 – 6):** Period of protection, decrease edema, activate quadriceps

- **Weightbearing:** Full with brace locked in full extension
- **Hinged Knee Brace:** Locked in full extension for ambulation and sleeping (remove for CPM and PT)
- **Range of Motion:** Continuous Passive Motion (CPM) machine for 4-6 hours/day x 6 weeks
  - **CPM Protocol:** 1 cycle per minute starting 0-30°(weeks 0-2), then advance 15°/week
- **Therapeutic Exercises:**
  - **Weeks 0-2:** quad sets, calf pumps, passive leg hangs to 45°
  - **Weeks 2-6:** PROM/AAROM to tolerance, gentle patellar mobs, quad/HS/glute sets, SLR, side-lying hip and core exercises
- **Modalities:** Per therapist, including electrical stimulation, ultrasound, heat (before), ice (after)

**Phase II (Weeks 6 – 8)**

- **Weightbearing:** Full
- **Hinged Knee Brace:** None
- **Range of Motion:** Progress to full, painless AROM
- **Therapeutic Exercises:** Advance Phase I
- **Modalities:** Per therapist, including electrical stimulation, ultrasound, heat (before), ice (after)

**Phase III (Weeks 8 – 12)**

- **Weightbearing:** Full
- **Range of Motion:** Full, painless
- **Therapeutic Exercises:** Advance Phase II, begin closed chain exercises, begin stationary bike, begin unilateral stance activities and balance training
- **Modalities:** Per therapist, including electrical stimulation, ultrasound, heat (before), ice (after)

**Phase IV (Weeks 12 – 24)**

- Advance Phase III exercises; focus on core/glutes; advance to elliptical, bike, and pool as tolerated

**Phase V (>6 months):** Gradual return to athletic activity

- Encourage maintenance program
- Return to sport-specific activity and impact when cleared by MD at 8-9 months postop

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_