

Dr. Alexandria Starks, MD Shoulder & Elbow Surgery (717) 299-4871

<u>Rehabilitation Protocol: Frozen Shoulder Release</u> (Capsule Release with Manipulation Under Anesthesia)

Phase 1: Maintain ROM (0 to 6 weeks)

- May remove dressing and shower postop day # 3.
- Sutures are all underneath the skin and will dissolve on their own
- Ice or cold flow systems encouraged for the first week at a minimum:
- should be used 3-4 times per day.
- Sling should be used for comfort only.
- Pulleys or Continuous Passive Motion (CPM) machine to be used 3-5
- times per day.
- Supplement exercise program 3 times per day:
 - Immediate elbow, forearm and hand range of motion out of sling
 - Pendulum exercises
 - Aggressive PROM and capsular mobility in all planes
- Supervised PROM and capsular stretching 3 times per week.
- May start active scapular mobility exercises immediately.
- Initiate AROM when tolerated.

Phase 2: Restore Function (>6 weeks)

- Initiate gentle rotator cuff strengthening (Theraband, dumbbells, etc.)
- Continue scapular stabilizer strengthening.
- Avoid strengthening in positions of impingement.