

## Patella Fracture Open Reduction Internal Fixation (ORIF) Physical Therapy Protocol

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**Patient Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date of Surgery:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Procedure:** Right / Left Patella Fracture ORIF

**Frequency:** 2x per week for \_\_\_\_\_ weeks

### **Phase I (0-6 weeks): *Period of protection***

- **Weightbearing:** As tolerated with crutches, locked in extension.
- **Brace:** Locked in extension during all weight bearing activities and during sleep.
- **ROM:**
  - No active extension or forced passive flexion.
  - All ROM should be non-weightbearing (NWB) and with the brace on following the following progression:
    - 0-3wks: Brace locked at 0°
    - 3-4wks: Brace unlocked from 0-30°
    - 4-5wks: Brace unlocked from 0-60°
    - 5-6wks: Brace unlocked from 0-90°
- **Therapeutic exercises:**
  - Hip/ankle ROM exercises 2-3x/day
- **Restrictions:** No quadriceps strengthening

### Phase II (6-12 weeks): *Initiate regular, supervised strengthening and wean from the brace*

- **Weightbearing:** As tolerated. Wean from crutches.
- **Brace:** Fully unlocked. May discontinue once ambulating with a normal gait and can perform SLR without an extension lag. s
- **ROM:** Advanced as tolerated. Goal 0-130° by weeks 12.
- **Therapeutic exercises:**
  - Initiate isometric quad sets
  - SLRs
  - Progress to closed chain strengthening (no open chain) once out of the brace

### Phase III (3-6 months): *Advanced strengthening.*

- **Rehabilitation Goals:** Return to activities.

- **Weightbearing:** Full.
- **ROM:** Full.
- **Therapeutic exercises:**
  - As above plus:
  - Advance strengthening as tolerated with closed chain exercises
  - 5 months:
    - Jogging and progress to agility training
    - Sports specific rehab as tolerated
  - 6 months:
    - Wean patient from formal therapy and encourage independent home program