



**Physical Therapy**  
**1<sup>st</sup> MTP Fusion - Postoperative Protocol**

<u>Week</u>	<u>Physical Therapy Guidelines</u>	<u>Goals</u>
0-2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Back slab/ high or low walker boot NWB or heel WB <b>only</b> (surgeon dependant)</li> <li>• gait re-education with correct use of crutches/walker</li> <li>• AROM of hip and knee</li> <li>• rest and elevation of limb 14 cm/ 6in above heart 22 out of 24 hrs a day</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ADL's with safe and independent crutches/walker use</li> <li>• Control swelling and pain</li> </ul>
2-6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1<sup>st</sup> post-op visit at F/A Clinic at 2 weeks post-op</li> <li>• seen by Physiotherapist in F&amp;A Clinic and taught AROM of ankle (refer to exercise sheet given by therapist in F/A Clinic)</li> <li>• Keep boot on at all times except remove boot 2-3x/day to do above exercises and for hygiene, boot on at night</li> <li>• May heel WB when walking – short distances only</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• protect fusion site</li> <li>• increase ROM at non-fused joints</li> <li>• increase exercise tolerance</li> <li>• maintain hip and knee ROM</li> <li>• safe and independent use of crutches/walker</li> </ul>
6-8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gradually progress to full WB in boot between weeks 6-8</li> <li>• AROM of ankle (refer to exercise sheet given by therapist in F/A Clinic)</li> <li>• stationary bike in boot</li> <li>• core exercises – recruit transversus abdominus</li> <li>• hip strength –glut med./abduction</li> <li>• joint mobilizations to <b>unfused joints</b></li> <li>• elevate to control swelling</li> <li>• increase ADL's in standing</li> <li>• scar massage</li> <li>• Can sleep without boot</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protect fusion site</li> <li>• maintain ankle ROM</li> <li>• maintain hip &amp; knee ROM/strength</li> <li>• improve core strength</li> <li>• safe use of crutches/walker</li> <li>• increase mobility of scar</li> </ul>

The information in this document is intended solely for the person to whom it was given by the health care team.

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8-14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• start weaning boot at 8 weeks post-op – practice standing, weight shift, and small periods of walking out of the boot. Gradually increase time and distance in order to be completely out of the boot by 10 wks</li> <li>• scar massage</li> <li>• heat</li> <li>• joint mobilizations to <b>unfused joints</b></li> <li>• stationary bicycle</li> <li>• gait training</li> <li>• begin unilateral stance exercises</li> <li>• may begin swimming if wound is healed and safe to get in and out of pool</li> <li>• low level balance and proprioceptive exercises</li> <li>• progressive strengthening of hip, knee and ankle</li> <li>• continue core strengthening</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WBAT out of boot and into shoe</li> <li>• increase core, hip, knee and ankle strength</li> <li>• safe gait with/without walking aid</li> </ul>
14-16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• bilateral heel raises progressing to unilateral heel raises</li> <li>• higher level balance/proprioceptive exercises</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ambulation with no walking aid</li> </ul>
16+	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• return to normal activities i.e. golf &amp; tennis</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• full strength</li> </ul>

### Pain and Swelling

This procedure causes a lot of swelling and pain. It is normal for the foot and ankle to be swollen for up to 6-12 months post-op. Redness does not necessarily indicate infection. Significant drainage from the wound is usually a sign of infection.

### Driving

The patient may drive if the surgery is on the **LEFT** foot as pain and swelling allows, and if the car is an automatic. If the surgery is on the **RIGHT** foot the patient may return to driving if they are full weight bearing and can safely demonstrate an emergency stop on the brake. **THE PATIENT CANNOT DRIVE WHILE THEIR FOOT IS IN A WALKER BOOT.** The patient should contact their insurance company before driving a car.

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### **Return to Work**

Return to work at a fully sedentary job no earlier than 3-4 weeks post-op.

Return to work at a job requiring significant amounts of standing or walking no earlier than 4 months postop.

Return to work for jobs with physical requirements between the above extremes is individualized (if uncertain please contact the surgeon).