Upper Extremity Active Range of Motion – Sitting

It will be very important to continue the exercise program that your therapist instructed you in when you leave the hospital.

**Purpose**

- increase strength
- maintain/improve endurance
- promote circulation
- maintain/increase range of motion (ROM)

**Instructions**

- exercises should be done at least once per day
- do one arm at a time
- perform exercises slowly

**Exercises**

To increase strength in the upper extremities, some type of weight (or resistance) should be used.

**Recommendations:**

- commercial wrist weights, 1 to 2 lbs.
- soup or tuna can

**Shoulder flexion**

Begin with your arms straight at your side. Keeping your elbow straight, lift one arm up over your head as far as possible.

Amount of resistance ________________  Amount of repetition ________________
**Shoulder abduction**
Lift your arm out to side with palm up.
Keep elbow straight.

**Shoulder rotation**
Bring arm(s) behind head.
Bring arm(s) behind back.

**Horizontal shoulder abduction and adduction**
Hold arm out to side at shoulder height.
Reach hand out and bring it in across your body. Keep elbow straight.

**Shoulder circumduction**
Hold arms out to side at shoulder height.
Move arms in a circle, clockwise, five times; then counter-clockwise five times.

**Shoulder extension**
Move arm(s) backwards. Do not lean forward.
Elbow flexion and extension
Bend elbow. Straighten elbow and hold.

Elbow extension
Hold arm above head, elbow pointing to ceiling. Straighten elbow.

Forearm pronation and supination
Turn palm up. Keep elbow at side. Turn palm down and hold.

Wrist flexion/extension
Begin with palm down, raise hand up and then bring down.

The information presented is intended for general information and educational purposes. It is not intended to replace the advice of your health care provider. Contact your health care provider if you believe you have a health problem.