## Post-Operative Cystocele and Rectocele Instructions

Procedure: Holding up of the bladder or holding down of the rectum through the vagina

What to Expect:

Your incisions are in the vagina. Expect vaginal discharge with blood for up to 4‐6wks as the sutures dissolve. Use pads as needed. You will be discharged home with a vaginal gauze packing. You should gently remove the gauze the morning after your surgery. If the gauze falls out, just leave it out, do not try to replace it.

The majority of your discomfort will in your vaginal area, tail bone and buttocks. This soreness results from the positioning of your legs during the surgery. The pain in your tail bone area can last several weeks, it is especially worse in the sitting position. The rectocele repair will hurt more and longer than the lifting of the bladder

Delayed bowel movement. It may take up to 3‐5 days before your first bowel movement. Do not push or strain to have a bowel movement. It is very helpful to take a daily stool softner such as Colace, Metamucil, Benefiber, Fibercon, or Miralax.

You may have a very small amount of blood in the urine. Call your doctor if you are passing clots. You may have a slight burning sensation when you urinate for 1‐5 days.

There is a possibility you will be discharged home with a catheter draining your bladder. You will be taught how to use a leg bag to drain the bladder prior to discharge. This is NOT unusual. It is sometimes difficult to urinate after surgery because of all the swelling. See your physician within 1wk after surgery to remove the catheter

Activity and Limitations:

1. Do NOT rest in bed all day. Walking and climbing stairs is encouraged.

2. NO heavy lifting, nothing greater than 10‐15 pounds for 4‐6wks after surgery

3. NO intercourse for at least 4‐6wks after the procedure

4. Showers are OK immediately after surgery. NO tub baths, pools or Jacuzzis for 4‐6wks

Return to Work: This is dependent on the type of work you do; please discuss this with your physician during your follow‐up visit.

* Call your physician for the following:
  + Temperature > 101.5
  + Excessive vaginal bleeding. Saturating a pad in less than 2‐3hrs
  + Inability to urinate.