

## OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

# PRECAUTIONS AFTER BREAST SURGERY

# YOUR HOME EXERCISE PROGRAM PROMOTES CIRCULATION AND WOUND HEALING AND INCREASES YOUR ACTIVE RANGE OF MOTION.

#### **General Guidelines**

- You are encouraged to use your arms for everyday activities such as eating, grooming, bathing, dressing and toileting.
- You may feel tightness in your chest and underarm after surgery. This is normal and these symptoms will improve with your exercises and time.
- Many people experience burning or tingling sensations after surgery. This is normal and should decrease with exercise and time.
- If you experience excessive swelling, redness or pain, contact your surgeon's office.



Arms out to shoulder height



Hands away from your body with elbows close to side



Arms relaxed at your side

- All arm motion must be within the "BOX."
- NO lifting greater than 8-10 pounds (by your body).
- NO excessive pushing or pulling.
- DO NOT do repetitive activities for any length of time such as vacuuming or gardening. However, you are allowed to complete exercises given by your therapist.



# RESOURCES

#### **Siteman Cancer Center**

- Counseling Services 314-747-5587
- Social Work 314-747-5574
- Financial Specialist 314-454-8064
- Nutritionist 314-362-7844
- Gentle yoga at the Center for Advanced Medicine, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor; Farrell Conference Center, Tue., 5:30-6:30pm

#### **Healing Chair**

• (healingchair.org) - Recliner that can be provided for after surgery

#### **Pink Ribbon Girls**

• (pinkribbongirls.org) - They provide meals, house cleaning and transportation in a 40 mile radius of St. Louis. All services are free. There is no age or income restriction.

#### YMCA

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• (gwrymca.org) - Three month free cancer classes with LIVE STRONG (Note: not all YMCA's participate)

#### **Healing Art Center**

• 314-647-8080; Free massage for cancer patients

#### **Pink Pepper Co.**

(pinkpepperco.com) - Mastectomy pillow and tops after surgery

# **Bra Apparel Options**

- Ann's Bra Shop Chesterfield, MO - 314-878-4144 Wentzville, MO - 636-332-6700 O'Fallon, IL - 618-624-8010
- Medical West Boutique Clayton, MO - 314-725-1888

#### **Financial Assistance**

- Gateway to Hope (gthstl.org) Christine A Lyss, RN; 314-569-1113
- No Woman Left Behind (nwlb.org) 314-497-8450

