

## Continuous Nerve Block Catheter Preoperative Information

Your care team has recommended a continuous nerve block catheter to help manage your pain after outpatient surgery. The catheter can be placed prior to or immediately following your procedure and will be performed by a specially trained anesthesiologist.

### Why is a Continuous Nerve Block Catheter Recommended?

- To help manage post-operative pain
  - Reduces the amount of oral pain medication you will need to take, which will decrease the risk of side effects from those medications. Be sure to fill your prescriptions and follow your surgeons directions
  - Allows for a more comfortable recovery at home.

### What is a Continuous Nerve Block Catheter?

- A continuous nerve block catheter is a small thin, flexible tube that is connected to a pump that delivers a numbing medication to the area you had surgery
- A continuous nerve block will stay in place for a couple of days to help manage your pain
- After full sensation returns, follow your surgeons weight bearing instructions
- You may need additional pain medication taken by mouth.

### What are the risks associated with Continuous Nerve Blocks Catheter?

- Continuous nerve blocks catheters are considered safe and effective for pain relief from surgery, but all procedures have some risks, which your provider will discuss with you the day of surgery.
- Many precautions are taken to reduce the risk associated with continuous nerve block catheters
- An injection of any kind can cause bruising, bleeding, or infection
- Occasionally, numbness can last longer than expected
- Permanent nerve damage is rare

### How will it feel to have a Continuous Nerve Block?

- Medications are given before the nerve block procedure to help you relax
- An ultrasound machine is used to locate the appropriate area to ensure proper placement of the numbing medication
- The numbing medication may feel like the area has fallen asleep, numb or tingling sensation which is normal
- Since the surgical extremity will be numb, protect your extremity with a sling, brace or crutches
- You will be given additional instructions on how to care for yourself prior to being discharged home

***An anesthesiologist will answer any questions and have you sign a consent form regarding your block before it is performed (before you go back to surgery).***

***Portage Pharmacy provides the medication for your block. They will call you to discuss additional costs associated with the block depending on your insurance coverage. Call (269) 327-0033 for further questions regarding the cost for your block. If unable to pay, contact your surgeon to discuss alternate options.***