

# Welcome To Our Shoulder Service

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Our team specializes in primary shoulder joint replacements, including (from left to right below) the ream and run, the total shoulder, the CTA arthroplasty and the reverse total shoulder. As well as failed prior joint replacement surgeries.



In that many of our patients come from a long ways from Seattle, we wanted to answer some frequently asked questions about our shoulder service.

## **Where Is Your Surgery Clinic?**

Our outpatient clinic is at the UWMC-Roosevelt Bone and Joint Surgery Center (Hand, Elbow & Shoulder Center), where we have parking, a reception area, examination rooms, x-ray, MRI, CT scans, physical therapy, outpatient surgery facilities and a coffee and snack bar.



Directions can be found here: <http://www.uwmedicine.org/locations/hand-elbow-shoulder-uwmc-roosevelt>. There is a shuttle from this clinic to the University of Washington Medical Center 1.2 miles away: <https://www.washington.edu/facilities/transportation/uwshuttles/hse/schedule>

### **Where Is The Surgery Done?**

We are fortunate to be able to perform surgery at the modern surgical pavilion.



Directions and parking information can be found here: <http://www.uwmedicine.org/uw-medical-center/campus/directions>. Here is an aerial view of the Medical Center.



## **What Lodging Is Nearby?**

Close to our clinic and accessible to the Medical Center via the shuttle is the Watertown <http://www.watertownseattle.com/> and the University Inn <http://www.universityinnseattle.com/>. Other hotels in the University District are listed here [http://www.yelp.com/search?cflt=hotels&find\\_loc=University+District+%2C+Seattle%2C+WA](http://www.yelp.com/search?cflt=hotels&find_loc=University+District+%2C+Seattle%2C+WA)

## **What About Insurance And Cost For Joint Replacement Surgery?**

Our service specializes in shoulder joint replacement. The current procedure terminology (CPT) codes used by insurance companies to identify these surgeries are usually either 23470 or 23472, sometimes with modifiers for additional complexity. Please be sure to check your insurance company before scheduling the surgery to be sure that it is contracted both with the University of Washington Medical Center (tax ID # 91-6001537) and the University of Washington Physicians (tax ID # 91-1220843) in that you will receive a bill for the surgery from each of these two organizations. If you live outside the state of Washington, you should also verify that you have out of state benefits.

Many insurance plans require preauthorization well in advance of the date of surgery. This means that the insurance company needs clinical information to prove that the procedure is medically necessary. If your clinic visit is well in advance of your surgery date, our documentation will meet this requirement. However, if your clinic visit with us is the day before your surgery (a 'one stop'), preauthorization will need to be based on written report of all x-rays of the shoulder and clinic notes from a physician who has examined and diagnosed the shoulder. You should fax these to us at 206-598-5750 well in advance of your desired date of surgery. Note that we cannot set up a definite date of surgery until we have approval from your insurance company.

## **What If I Want To Pay For My Surgery Myself?**

If you plan to pay cash or credit card for the surgery (in lieu of insurance), there is a 10% discount for cash payments. The total cost of a joint replacement surgery is often in the range of \$40,000 to \$50,000, assuming an uneventful two-night inpatient stay.

## **What If An Out-Of-Town Patient Wants To Combine The Preoperative Clinic Visit With A Surgery The Next Day?**

This is what we call a "one-stop". We only go this route if (a) the patient desires this plan, (b) the diagnosis of the shoulder problem and the choice of shoulder procedure are clear, (c) the patient is good health without any skin problems, and (d) the insurance coverage has been worked out in advance. Patients desiring consideration of this route need to complete the 'one-stop' questionnaire.

In the 'one-stop', the patient arrives in Seattle Sunday, we see you in the office and then have you checked out at the Pre Anesthesia clinic on Monday morning with a plan for two-hour surgery the following day (Tues). Patients are usually in the medical center receiving support and physical therapy for two nights, leaving the medical center on Thursday morning. It is best if the patient waits to leave Seattle until Saturday, making sure that all is OK before the trip back home. It is safest if a friend or family member can accompany the patient on the way home.

After surgery, you need a wound check and staple or stitch removal at two weeks (this can be done by a nurse, PA, or your family doctor). You need to return to our office at six weeks for new films, to check range of motion, and to start new exercises. If that will not be possible, please let us know.

We are dedicated to both excellence in the care of our patients and to responding to their questions before and after surgery.

If more questions arise please let us know,

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