Name	
Therapist	
Physician	





ACL Reconstruction

Brace locked in extension x 5-7 days (locked at - 10° hyperextension if extension lag). Then unlocked 0° - 90° x 4 weeks. Sleep with brace locked in extension ~ 2 weeks or until symmetrical active extension is achieved. WBAT with 2 crutches. Wean from crutches in ~3 weeks if pain/swelling controlled and good quad activation

Phase 1 - MOTION AND MOBILITY/GRAFT PROTECTION

Weeks 1-6 Patellar tendon and patellar complex mobilization emphasized for at least the first 6-8 weeks

Flexion and extension ROM with emphasis on symmetrical active hyperextension.

Quad sets and SLR (with NMES, biofeedback)

Open- and closed-chain terminal knee extension (TKE)

Open-chain hip strengthening

Bike for motion starting at 1-2 weeks

Double-leg shuttle leg press for muscle activation no earlier than 4 weeks (0-60°)

*Avoid squatting on an acutely inflamed knee.

Phase 2 - ENDURANCE

Week 7-12 Ensure full extension is maintained as closed-chain activities progress

Squat progression, including double and single leg squats with sport cord

Bridge, lunge and step-up progressions

Balance progression

Bike for cardiovascular fitness/quad endurance

Progress from double-leg to single-leg activities; from stable to unstable surfaces

Gradual initiation of frontal plane exercise

Phase 3 - STRENGTH

Week 13-20 Increase sets/duration of closed-chain strengthening in varied proprioceptive environments

Initiate squat jump progression from shuttle to gravity dependent position

Advance plyometrics from bilateral to unilateral as pt demonstrates knee control

Emphasize deceleration and eccentric control

*Pass sport cord test around 5 months to allow advanced agility progression to begin.

Phase 4 – AGILITY, POWER, RETURN TO SPORT

Week 20+ Sport-specific movement patterns practiced in supervised and controlled environment

Graded re-integration into sport activities

Return to Activities

Running Between 3-4 months when functional criteria met

Golf Short irons at 4 months, full swing w/long irons at 5 months. Delay 4-6 weeks if lead leg

Pivoting/cutting sport When functional criteria are met and cleared by surgeon, typically 6 months at the earliest

Surgeon Comments: