

**Uchechi Iweala MD, MBA**  
Orthopedic Spine Surgeon  
[www.dociweala.com](http://www.dociweala.com)  
(410) 644-1880

Post-Operative Instructions: Anterior Cervical Discectomy and Fusion

- You had surgery to remove discs in your cervical spine and fuse them anteriorly.
- You should keep your dressing on, clean, and dry until 5 days after your surgery date. If you need to shower, please avoid getting water on your dressing or otherwise sponge bathe.
- You may remove your dressing after day 5. However, do not remove the sticky rectangles of tape overlying the incision. You may shower and allow water to touch the surgical site, but do not scrub the surgical site vigorously.
- After your shower, replace your dressing with regular gauze and tape.
- If you are given a hard collar, you should wear it for the next 6 weeks. You may take it off when sleeping and when in the shower.
- Take the following pain meds as prescribed:
  - Oxycodone 5 mg, 1 tablet every 4 to 6 hours as needed for pain (30 pills total)
  - Acetaminophen 650 mg every 6 hours as needed for pain
  - Medrol dosepak
- Do not drive while on narcotics. Clearance to drive is typically after your first postoperative appointment.
- Schedule your first follow up appointment for 2 weeks after your surgery date by calling Dr. Uchechi Iweala's office at (410) 644-1880.
- If you develop shortness of breath, chest pain, copious wound drainage or other concerning signs or symptoms, then call Dr. Iweala's office number or go to your nearest ED. A sore or scratchy throat, hoarse voice, and some spotting on your dressing are expected occurrences after surgery.
- Congratulations on successfully getting through your surgery!