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orthopaedics, p.a.

Mission Statement and Disclosure Form

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Practice limited to hip and knee reconstruction,
Midlands Orthopaedics, p.a. 1910 Blanding Street, Columbia, SC 29201

I am a specialist in the field of hip and knee replacement. I am in private practice, but I am also heavily involved in clinical research, teaching and orthopaedic implant development. I perform all of my surgery personally, with the assistance of Lee Webb, Nurse Practitioner. No residents or fellows will do your operation. Visiting surgeons are frequently present to observe my operations to learn the latest techniques; they do not participate in the operations themselves. I do receive royalties and research support from various orthopaedic implant companies. I do not get paid directly for the implants used in your surgery. Joint replacement implants in the Columbia marketplace are excluded from my royalty contract. I will be happy to answer specific questions you have regarding implants I intend to use in your operation.

It is generally recognized as the standard of care for joint replacement surgeons to provide long-term follow up evaluations for patients they have operated on. Although we do bill for these services, we primarily earn our living from performing surgery. As a surgeon involved in clinical research, it is *particularly* important to me to continue a long-term relationship with all patients on whom I operate. I use all information gathered in my practice as material for teaching and scientific presentations and papers. Patient identity is carefully protected in all presentations. (The only exception is for patients who *specifically* agree to provide testimonials about their cases. These patients write up a description of their experience for public presentation.)

Every medical treatment has potential to result in complications. Surgical treatments all have their own sets of possible complications. I will disclose the most common ones to you; most are posted on my website. If you should have a complication, I will deal with it promptly and directly. Even out of state patients should keep me well informed of any that develop. It is my preference (and in your best interest) for me to deal with all surgical complications personally. Nonsurgical (medical) complications can be dealt with by your local primary care physician or other non-orthopaedic specialist, but please keep me informed and let me advise you. Surgical complications may require extra unexpected trips to Columbia, SC, but this is essential for you to achieve the best possible outcome.

One reason you may have chosen me as a surgeon is because my experience allows me to perform surgery with a very low complication rate. However, equally important is my knowledge in how to deal with postoperative

MIDLANDS

orthopaedics, p.a.

complications appropriately. Even after they occur, a good outcome can often be achieved with appropriate skilled intervention.

I expect to see all patients for follow up evaluations at four to six weeks postoperatively and one year postoperatively in my office. If you are an out of state patient, local follow up can be arranged (but is *not* preferred). If your case is routine and stable, long-term follow up (two years, five years, 10 years, and 15 years) can be done via online questionnaire and digital x-ray. I will provide you with a written reply and will not charge you for reviewing your online questionnaire and x-rays. If a phone consultation is required (after three months post-op) a fee may be assessed. If you do have specific problems, on site personal evaluation by me is recommended.

I have read the above statement and agree to honor my commitment to provide timely follow up information. I understand that providing this information will benefit not only me, but also Dr. Gross and many future patients of his practice and elsewhere. I hereby agree to play my part in furthering the practice and science of joint replacement surgery. This contract is not legally enforceable, but represents my good faith agreement under which I wish to establish a doctor-patient relationship with Dr. Gross.

Patient's Signature

Date

Thank you. My commitment to you is the highest level of care, both technically and personally. I strive to continue to elevate the level of my expertise by dealing with complications directly and promptly and by continuing a rigorous and systematic scientific review of my surgical outcomes.

Thomas P. Gross, MD

1/31/2008

Date

<http://grossortho.com/>