## **Total Laryngectomy Pathway (With Reconstruction)**

These are goals for your recovery. Your experience may not follow this pathway exactly. Your doctor or nurse will tell you what to expect.

Surgery date: \_\_\_\_\_ Expected discharge date: \_\_\_\_\_

	Before Surgery		
What tests, procedures, and medical devices should I expect?	<ul> <li>Presurgical testing appointment:         <ul> <li>Bring a list of all medications you take.</li> <li>Bring results from medical tests done outside of MSK.</li> <li>Your nurse practitioner may order more tests, appointments, or both.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>		
What medications will I take?	<ul> <li>Ask your doctor when to stop taking blood thinners.         Examples include:         <ul> <li>Aspirin</li> <li>Nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs)</li> <li>Herbal supplements</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Follow your surgical team's instructions for taking other medications.</li> </ul>	
Which team members will I see?	<ul> <li>Head and Neck surgeon</li> <li>Plastic surgeon</li> <li>Speech and Swallow therapist</li> <li>Dietitian</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Social worker, case manager, or both</li> <li>Tobacco Cessation nurse (if you smoke or recently quit)</li> </ul>	
What should I do?	<ul> <li>Follow the instructions in your surgical guide.</li> <li>Stop smoking.</li> <li>Tell your surgical team if you drink alcohol.</li> <li>Plan your ride home after surgery.</li> <li>Sign up for MyMSK (the MSK patient portal).</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>The day before surgery:</li> <li>Wash with Hibiclens® if your surgical team tells you to.</li> <li>Don't eat or drink anything after midnight.</li> </ul>	

	Day of Surgery				
What tests, procedures, and medical devices should I expect?	<ul> <li>Placed before surgery:         <ul> <li>Intravenous (IV) line in a vein</li> <li>Compression boots on your legs</li> </ul> </li> <li>Placed during surgery:         <ul> <li>Urinary (Foley®) catheter in your urethra</li> <li>If needed, vacuum dressing over your donor site</li> <li>Bandage over your skin graft, if you have one</li> <li>Feeding tube in your nose</li> <li>Laryngectomy tube and humidifier</li> <li>Tubes and drains in your incision</li> </ul> </li> </ul>				
What medications will I take?	<ul> <li>Before surgery, take only the medications your surgical team told you to take. Take them with a small sip of water.</li> <li>After surgery, you will get pain medication, medication to prevent nausea, and antibiotics.</li> </ul>				
Which team members will I see?	Before surgery, your Head and Neck surgery team and Plastic surgery team will mark your surgical site.				
What should I do?	• The morning before surgery, wash with Hibiclens if your surgical team tells you to.  • After surgery, do coughing and deep breathing exercises 10 times each hour you're awake.				

#### While you're in the hospital:

- Your Head and Neck surgery and Plastic surgery teams will visit your room every day.
- If you have a skin graft, your nurse will change the bandage every day.
- You will wear compression boots while you're in bed.
- Tell your nurse if your pain isn't controlled.

	1 Day After Surgery	2 Days After Surgery	
What tests, procedures, and medical devices should I expect?	<ul> <li>Your urinary catheter will be removed when you move to your hospital room.</li> <li>You will get nutrition through your feeding tube, unless you feel very nauseous.</li> <li>Your nurse will check your free flap for a Doppler signal every hour. This is to make sure blood is flowing.</li> <li>Your nurse will suction your laryngectomy stoma often. This keeps your airway clear.</li> <li>Your nurse will remove and clean your laryngectomy tube often.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>You will get nutrition through your feeding tube.</li> <li>Your nurse will check your free flap for a Doppler signal every hour.</li> <li>Your nurse will suction your laryngectomy stoma often.</li> <li>Your nurse will remove and clean your laryngectomy tube often.</li> </ul>	
What medications will I take?	<ul> <li>In the Post Anesthesia Care Unit (PACU), you will get pain medication through your IV. You will control the medication with a button (PCA).</li> <li>When you move to your hospital room, you will start getting liquid pain medication through your feeding tube instead.</li> <li>Antibiotics</li> <li>Daily medications</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Pain medication through your feeding tube (as needed)</li> <li>Antibiotics</li> <li>Daily medications</li> </ul>	
Which team members will I see?	<ul><li>Dietitian</li><li>Speech and Swallow therapist</li></ul>	<ul> <li>Speech and Swallow therapist</li> <li>Physical therapist or occupational therapist, if needed</li> </ul>	
What should I do?	<ul> <li>You won't be able to speak after surgery. You will communicate with the staff and your visitors by writing on a communication board and using an iPad speaking app. Your nurse will bring you these things.</li> <li>Do the exercises your Speech and Swallow therapist teaches you.</li> <li>Do coughing and deep breathing exercises 10 times each hour you're awake.</li> <li>Sit in your chair for most of the day. A staff member will help you move.</li> <li>Walk at least 1 lap around the nursing unit. A staff member will help you.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Do the exercises your Speech and Swallow therapist teaches you.</li> <li>Sit in your chair for most of the day.</li> <li>Walk at least 1 lap around the nursing unit. A staff member will help you.</li> </ul>	

	3 Days After Surgery	4 Days After Surgery
What tests, procedures, and medical devices should I expect?	<ul> <li>You will get nutrition through your feeding tube.</li> <li>Your nurse will check your free flap for a Doppler signal every 2 hours.</li> <li>Your nurse will suction your laryngectomy stoma often.</li> <li>Your nurse will remove and clean your laryngectomy tube often.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>You will get nutrition through your feeding tube.</li> <li>Your nurse will your free flap for a Doppler signal every 2 hours.</li> <li>Your nurse will suction your laryngectomy stoma often.</li> <li>Your nurse will remove and clean your laryngectomy tube often.</li> </ul>
What medications will I take?  Which team members will I see?	<ul> <li>Pain medication through your feeding tube (as needed)</li> <li>Antibiotics</li> <li>Daily medications</li> <li>Speech and Swallow therapist, if needed</li> <li>Physical therapist or occupational therapist, if needed</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Pain medication through your feeding tube (as needed)</li> <li>Antibiotics</li> <li>Daily medications</li> <li>Speech and Swallow therapist, if needed</li> <li>Physical therapist or occupational therapist, if needed</li> </ul>
What should I do?	<ul> <li>Do the exercises your Speech and Swallow therapist teaches you.</li> <li>Do coughing and deep breathing exercises 10 times each hour you're awake.</li> <li>Sit in your chair for most of the day.</li> <li>Walk 2 to 3 laps around the nursing unit. A staff member will help you.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Learn how to suction your laryngectomy stoma. Your nurse will show you how.</li> <li>Learn how to care for your laryngectomy tube. Your nurse will show you how. Clean your tube every 4 hours.</li> <li>Do the exercises your Speech and Swallow therapist teaches you.</li> <li>Do coughing and deep breathing exercises 10 times each hour you're awake.</li> <li>Sit in your chair for most of the day.</li> <li>Walk 3 to 4 laps around the nursing unit. A staff member will help you.</li> </ul>

	5 Days After Surgery	6 Days After Surgery
What tests, procedures, and medical devices should I expect?	<ul> <li>Your vacuum dressing will be removed. Your donor site will be covered with a Vaseline® gauze dressing.</li> <li>You will get nutrition through your feeding tube.</li> <li>Your nurse will check your free flap for a Doppler signal every 4 hours.</li> <li>You or your nurse will suction your laryngectomy stoma often.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Your nurse will change your donor site dressing.</li> <li>You will get nutrition through your feeding tube.</li> <li>Your nurse will check your free flap for a Doppler signal every 4 hours.</li> </ul>
What medications will I take?	<ul> <li>Pain medication through your feeding tube (as needed)</li> <li>Daily medications</li> <li>Antibiotics</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Pain medication through your feeding tube (as needed)</li> <li>Daily medications</li> </ul>
Which team members will I see?	Physical therapist or occupational therapist, if needed	Physical therapist or occupational therapist, if needed
What should I do?	<ul> <li>Suction your laryngectomy stoma as needed. Call your nurse if you need help.</li> <li>Clean your laryngectomy tube every 4 hours. Call your nurse if you need help.</li> <li>Do the exercises your Speech and Swallow therapist teaches you.</li> <li>Do coughing and deep breathing exercises 10 times each hour you're awake.</li> <li>Sit in your chair for most of the day.</li> <li>Walk 4 or more laps around the nursing unit. A staff member will help you.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Suction your laryngectomy stoma as needed.</li> <li>Clean your laryngectomy tube every 4 hours.</li> <li>Do the exercises your Speech and Swallow therapist teaches you.</li> <li>Do coughing and deep breathing exercises 10 times each hour you're awake.</li> <li>Sit in your chair for most of the day.</li> <li>Walk 4 or more laps around the nursing unit. A staff member will help you.</li> </ul>

	7 Days After Surgery	8 Days After Surgery
What tests, procedures, and medical devices should I expect?	<ul> <li>You will have a swallow study to see if it's safe for you to start eating by mouth.</li> <li>You will get some nutrition through your feeding tube.</li> <li>Your nurse will change your donor site dressing.</li> <li>Your nurse will check your free flap for a Doppler signal every 4 hours.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Your feeding tube will be removed if you can get enough nutrition from eating and drinking.</li> <li>Your nurse will change your donor site dressing.</li> <li>Your nurse will check your free flap for a Doppler signal 2 times today.</li> </ul>
What medications will I take?	<ul><li>Pain medication through your feeding tube (as needed)</li><li>Daily medications</li></ul>	<ul><li>Oral pain medication (as needed)</li><li>Daily medication</li></ul>
Which team members will I see?	<ul><li>Case manager</li><li>Speech and swallow therapist</li><li>Dietitian</li></ul>	<ul><li>Speech and swallow therapist</li><li>Dietitian</li></ul>
What should I do?	<ul> <li>Start planning your home care with your case manager. They will talk with you about your caregiver, medical supplies, and other changes you may need to make at home.</li> <li>You may start drinking liquids.</li> <li>Suction your laryngectomy stoma as needed.</li> <li>Clean your laryngectomy tube every 4 hours.</li> <li>Do coughing and deep breathing exercises 10 times each hour you're awake.</li> <li>Sit in your chair for most of the day.</li> <li>Walk 4 or more laps around the nursing unit. A staff member will help you.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Learn how to care for your drain(s) and dressing(s). Your nurse will teach you.</li> <li>Suction your laryngectomy stoma as needed.</li> <li>Clean your laryngectomy tube every 4 hours.</li> <li>Do coughing and deep breathing exercises 10 times each hour you're awake.</li> <li>Sit in your chair for most of the day.</li> <li>Walk 4 or more laps around the nursing unit. A staff member will help you.</li> </ul>

	9 Days After Surgery	10 Days After Surgery (Day of Discharge)
What tests, procedures, and medical devices should I expect?	<ul> <li>Your portable operated suction machine should be delivered to your hospital room.</li> <li>Your nurse will change your donor site dressing.</li> <li>Your nurse will check your free flap for a Doppler signal 2 times today.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Make sure you have your portable suction machine with you when you leave the hospital.</li> <li>A staff member will review your discharge instructions with you.</li> <li>Your nurse or case manager will give you supplies to take home. Other supplies will be delivered to your home.</li> <li>Your nurse will change your donor site dressing.</li> <li>You will leave the hospital with your laryngectomy tube in your laryngectomy stoma.</li> <li>You may leave the hospital with tubes and drains in your incision.</li> </ul>
What medications will I take?	<ul><li>Oral pain medication (as needed)</li><li>Daily medication</li></ul>	<ul> <li>Oral pain medication (as needed)</li> <li>Daily medications</li> <li>Your doctor will give you prescriptions for medications to take at home.</li> </ul>
Which team members will I see?	• Case manager	Discharge pharmacist
What should I do?	<ul> <li>Finish planning your discharge with your caregiver and case manager.</li> <li>Make sure you have a ride home after discharge.</li> <li>Review how to care for your drain(s) and dressing(s).</li> <li>Suction your laryngectomy stoma as needed.</li> <li>Clean your laryngectomy tube every 4 hours.</li> <li>Do coughing and deep breathing exercises 10 times each hour you're awake.</li> <li>Sit in your chair for most of the day.</li> <li>Walk 4 or more laps around the nursing unit. A staff member will help you.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Plan to leave the hospital by 11:00 AM.</li> <li>Gather your belongings in the morning.</li> <li>Review how to care for your drain(s) and dressing(s).</li> <li>Suction your laryngectomy stoma as needed.</li> <li>Clean your laryngectomy tube every 4 hours.</li> <li>Do coughing and deep breathing exercises 10 times each hour you're awake.</li> <li>Spend most of your day out of bed.</li> <li>Walk as often as you can.</li> </ul>

	After Discharge
What tests, procedures, and medical devices should I expect?	If you go home with tubes or drains, they will be removed at your follow-up appointment.
What medications will I take?	<ul> <li>Oral pain medication (as needed)</li> <li>Stool softeners (as needed)</li> <li>Other prescription medications, if needed</li> <li>Daily medications</li> </ul>
Which team members will I see?	You will have a follow-up appointment with your Head and Neck surgery and Plastic surgery team 1 week after discharge.
What should I do?	<ul> <li>Follow the instructions in your surgical guide.</li> <li>Call your surgeon's office if you have any questions or concerns.</li> <li>Don't drive until your surgeon says it's safe, especially if you're taking pain medication.</li> </ul>

# **Activity and Recovery Log**

Use this log to track your recovery after your surgery.

	1 Day After Surgery	2 Days After Surgery	3 Days After Surgery	4 Days After Surgery
Moving &	Goal: Move from your bed to your chair 3 times	Goal: Move from your bed to your chair 3 times	Goal: Move from your bed to your chair 3 times	Goal: Move from your bed to your chair 3 times
Walking Check 1 box each				
time you walk 1 lap around the nursing unit.	Goal: Walk 1 lap or more	Goal: Walk 1 lap or more	Goal: Walk 2 to 3 laps or more	Goal: Walk 3 to 4 laps or more
	Goal: 10 times each hour			
Coughing & Deep Breathing Check 1 box for each hour you cough and breathe deeply 10 times.	□ 6 AM □ 7 AM □ 8 AM □ 9 AM □ 10 AM □ 11 AM □ 12 PM □ 2 PM □ 3 PM □ 4 PM □ 5 PM □ 6 PM □ 7 PM □ 8 PM □ 9 PM □ 10 PM	□ 6 AM □ 7 AM □ 8 AM □ 9 AM □ 10 AM □ 11 AM □ 12 PM □ 2 PM □ 3 PM □ 4 PM □ 5 PM □ 6 PM □ 7 PM □ 8 PM □ 9 PM □ 10 PM	□ 6 AM □ 7 AM □ 8 AM □ 9 AM □ 10 AM □ 11 AM □ 12 PM □ 2 PM □ 3 PM □ 4 PM □ 5 PM □ 6 PM □ 7 PM □ 8 PM □ 9 PM □ 10 PM	□ 6 AM □ 7 AM □ 8 AM □ 9 AM □ 10 AM □ 11 AM □ 12 PM □ 2 PM □ 3 PM □ 4 PM □ 5 PM □ 6 PM □ 7 PM □ 8 PM □ 9 PM □ 10 PM
Caring for Your Laryngectomy Stoma & Tube				Goal: Every 4 hours
Check 1 box each time you remove and clean your laryngectomy tube.				

	5 Days After Surgery	6 Days After Surgery	7 Days After Surgery
Moving &	Goal: Move from your bed to your chair 3 times	Goal: Move from your bed to your chair 3 times	Goal: Move from your bed to your chair 3 times
Walking			
Check 1 box each time you walk 1 lap	Goal: Walk 4 laps or more	Goal: Walk 4 laps or more	Goal: Walk 4 laps or more
around the nursing unit.			
	Goal: 10 times each hour	Goal: 10 times each hour	Goal: 10 times each hour
Coughing & Deep Breathing Check 1 box for each hour you cough and breathe deeply 10 times.	□ 6 AM □ 7 AM □ 8 AM □ 9 AM □ 10 AM □ 11 AM □ 12 PM □ 2 PM □ 3 PM □ 4 PM □ 5 PM □ 6 PM □ 7 PM □ 8 PM □ 9 PM □ 10 PM	□ 6 AM □ 7 AM □ 8 AM □ 9 AM □ 10 AM □ 11 AM □ 12 PM □ 2 PM □ 3 PM □ 4 PM □ 5 PM □ 6 PM □ 7 PM □ 8 PM □ 9 PM □ 10 PM	□ 6 AM □ 7 AM □ 8 AM □ 9 AM □ 10 AM □ 11 AM □ 12 PM □ 2 PM □ 3 PM □ 4 PM □ 5 PM □ 6 PM □ 7 PM □ 8 PM □ 9 PM □ 10 PM
Caring for Your	Goal: Every 4 hours	Goal: Every 4 hours	Goal: Every 4 hours
Laryngectomy Stoma & Tube			
Check 1 box each time you remove and clean your laryngectomy tube.			

	8 Days After Surgery	9 Days After Surgery	10 Days After Surgery
Moving &	Goal: Move from your bed to your chair 3 times	Goal: Move from your bed to your chair 3 times	Goal: Move from your bed to your chair 3 times
Walking			
Check 1 box each time you walk 1 lap	Goal: Walk 4 laps or more	Goal: Walk 4 laps or more	Goal: Walk 4 laps or more
around the nursing unit.			
	Goal: 10 times each hour	Goal: 10 times each hour	Goal: 10 times each hour
Coughing & Deep Breathing Check 1 box for each hour you cough and breathe deeply 10 times.	□ 6 AM □ 7 AM □ 8 AM □ 9 AM □ 10 AM □ 11 AM □ 12 PM □ 2 PM □ 3 PM □ 5 PM □ 5 PM □ 6 PM □ 7 PM □ 8 PM □ 9 PM □ 10 PM	□ 6 AM □ 7 AM □ 8 AM □ 9 AM □ 10 AM □ 11 AM □ 12 PM □ 2 PM □ 3 PM □ 4 PM □ 5 PM □ 6 PM □ 7 PM □ 8 PM □ 9 PM □ 10 PM	□ 6 AM □ 7 AM □ 8 AM □ 9 AM □ 10 AM □ 11 AM □ 12 PM □ 2 PM □ 3 PM □ 5 PM □ 5 PM □ 6 PM □ 7 PM □ 8 PM □ 9 PM □ 10 PM
Caring for Your	Goal: Every 4 hours	Goal: Every 4 hours	Goal: Every 4 hours
Laryngectomy			
Stoma & Tube  Check 1 box each time you remove and clean your laryngectomy tube.			