** HYPOCALCEMIA – Low calcium**

**Total Thyroidectomy**

**WHAT IS HYPOCALCEMIA?**

* Low levels of calcium in the blood
* Signs and symptom of low calcium usually won’t occur for 24 – 48 hours post operatively

**SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS**

* Numbness in fingers or toes
* Tingling around the mouth
* Muscle Spasm
* Anxiety
* Depression
* Irritability
* Inability to concentrate
* Confusion
* Muscle stiffness
* Difficulty swallowing
* Difficulty speaking
* Fatigue or weakness
* Dizziness
* Papilledema
* Low blood pressure
* Seizure

**MEDICATIONS**

* No Calcium necessary, watch for signs and symptoms of low calcium
* Calcium Citrate plus Vitamin D (315mg/250 units) take 2 tablets every 4 hours and watch for signs and symptoms of low calcium
* Calcium Citrate plus Vitamin D (315mg/250 units) take 2 tablets every 4 hours and Rocaltrol (Calcitriol) every 12 hours and watch for signs and symptoms of low calcium

**Call your doctor with ANY symptoms of low calcium:** Phone # (843) **766-7103**. If you need immediate attention go to the nearest Emergency Department.

**I have read, been read, and verbally repeated back instructions and understand them. A copy has been given to me.**

**Date of Follow-Up Visit \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Time \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

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**Patient/Responsible Party Nurse Signature**