Post-Operative Rehabilitation Guidelines for
Massive Rotator Cuff Tears

Arthroscopic Rotator Cuff Repair
Arthroscopic Assisted (Mini-Open) Rotator Cuff Repair

1-6 Weeks:
Sling Immobilization
Active ROM Elbow, Wrist and Hand
Passive (ONLY) ROM Shoulder
  Pendulums,
  Supine Elevation in Scapular plane = 140 degrees
  External Rotation = 40 degrees
Scapular Stabilization exercises (side-lying)
Deltoid isometrics in neutral (submaximal) as ROM improves
No Pulley/Canes until 6 weeks post-op

6-12 Weeks:
Discontinue Sling
Active Assist to Active ROM Shoulder As Tolerated
  Elevation in scapular plane and external rotation to tolerance
  Begin internal rotation as tolerated
  Light stretching at end ranges
Cuff Isometrics with the arm at the side

3-12 Months
Advance to full ROM as tolerated with passive stretching at end ranges
Advance strengthening as tolerated: isometrics → bands → light weights (1-5 lbs); 8-12 reps/2-3 sets per rotator cuff, deltoid, and scapular stabilizers
Only do strengthening 3x/week to avoid rotator cuff tendonitis
Begin eccentrically resisted motions, plyometrics (ex. Weighted ball toss), proprioception (es. body blade)
Begin sports related rehab at 4 ½ months, including advanced conditioning
Return to throwing at 6 months
Throw from pitcher’s mound at 9 months
Collision sports at 9 months
MMI is usually at 12 months post-op