

Outpatients

Looking After Your Plaster Cast

The aim of this leaflet is to provide you with general information on how to look after your plaster cast and how to get in touch with us.

Plaster Room Opening Times: Monday – Friday 8.45 – 13.00

Do....✓

- Keep affected limb elevated.
- Keep un-affected joints moving.
- Use correct Shower/Bath protectors, or wrap a dry towel around plaster.
- Do contact us should you need any further advice.

Do Not.... X

- Get the Plaster wet.
- Take your Plaster off yourself.
- Poke anything down your cast (this may result in a sore).
- Do not sit next to a fire or use a hairdryer on your cast.
- Do not use plastic bags or cling-film.
- Do not put creams or talc down your cast as it can irritate your skin.



Patient Information

Aftercare of your plaster

- Remember you have an injury and may be unsteady.
- Be patient and use your crutches until you are told otherwise.
- If you are weight bearing we will provide a plaster shoe.
- Always make sure you feel safe when showering and bathing.
- Be careful with loose rugs and laminate flooring.
- When relaxing, raise your limb to avoid swelling.
- If you have access to stairs remember safety first.
- Do not trust any unstable furniture for support.

Avoid Harm

- Smoking can delay healing of the bone and wound which may cause delayed healing.
- A balanced diet is essential in the healing process.
- Driving whilst in plaster is **not** advisable. **Please** check with your Consultant and Insurance Company before doing so.
- If you are due to fly with a plaster, please speak to your consultant and the airline, your cast may need to be split.

When your plaster is removed you should expect the following

- **Pain**; take adequate pain relief.
- **Tenderness**; this is normal and can take up to 2 to 3 months to settle.
- **Swelling**; this is normal and can take up to 6 months to reduce. Keep moving your fingers and toes to reduce stiffness.
- **Deformity**; occasionally the wrist joint can appear to have a different shape to the other side. This is usually related to the way it has healed.

Contact us if:

- Toes or fingers become swollen
- Pins and needles/numbness

Patient Information

- Cast rubs or is too loose
- Discharge/smell from under the cast
- If plaster becomes wet

Or, if you suffer from:

- Any excessive pain
- Shortness of breath
- Cast is too tight

Plaster Room Daytime Contact Number:

Rugby 01788 663143

Coventry 024 7696 6909

Out of hours contact (Rugby) **Urgent Treatment Centre**

Or A&E at University Hospital Coventry & Warwickshire (UHCW)

The Trust has access to interpreting and translation services. If you need this Information in another language or format, please contact 01788 663143 and we will do our best to meet your needs.

The Trust operates a smoke free policy.

To give feedback on this leaflet please email feedback@uhcw.nhs.uk

Document History

Department:	Outpatients
Contact:	33143
Updated:	April 2022
Review:	April 2024
Version:	8.2
Reference:	HIC/LFT/294/06