

## Trauma and Orthopaedics department

# A guide for patients on post-operative wound care after joint surgery

**Post-operative joint infection remains one of the most serious complications of a joint replacement. Timely diagnosis and appropriate action can have a huge impact on the outcome.**

**The information on this leaflet will lead you through a pathway that you can easily follow if you have any concerns about your wound.**

Redness, bruising, swelling, stiffness and discomfort are among the signs and symptoms of normal wound healing but unfortunately, they can also occur in the presence of infection.

**If you have any of the following signs and symptoms, you could have an infection:**

- Increased warmth and redness around the wound
- Wound discharge
- Fevers, chills and night sweats
- Increased pain or stiffness
- Bruising and swelling
- Fatigue



## Patient Information



Infected knee joint.



Infected hip joint.

Antibiotics may mask the joint infection temporarily but they are unlikely to cure it. They will also compromise the success of any further treatments.

Therefore, if you have any queries or concerns please leave a voice mail message on the number below for advice.

We will organise the necessary investigations and arrange an appointment if required.

**Contact number: 024 7696 8333**



**Remember: Do not take antibiotics unless, it was prescribed by the Orthopaedic team.**

## Patient Information

The Trust has access to interpreting and translation services. If you need this Information in another language or format, please contact **02476 966009** and we will do our best to meet your needs.

The Trust operates a smoke free policy.

### Document History

Department:	Trauma and Orthopaedics
Contact:	Bleep 4978
Updated:	October 2019
Review:	October 2021
Version:	1.1
Reference:	HIC/LFT/2360/19