

**Mersey Regional
Burn & Plastic Surgery Unit**

Ward 3a: 0151 430 1520

Ward 4d: 0151 430 1540

Trauma unit: 0151 430 1642

**Discharge advice for patients
with a**

**hand(s) injury (structural
repair with a plaster of paris
splint in place)**

Patient information leaflet

This leaflet can be made available in alternative
languages/formats on request

Creation Date - November 2004
Review Date – June 2018 (DL)
Produced by Burns & Plastics
Department



**Whiston Hospital
Warrington Road
Prescot L35 5DR**

Dressings

If you have a dressing on your wound(s) please keep this clean, dry and un-disturbed until your dressing clinic appointment.

If necessary, please take your painkillers at least 45 minutes before your clinic appointment to help with pain relief during the change of dressing.

Exercises

It is **very important** that you perform any exercises given to you by a therapist **as you were shown**.

- Bend and straighten your elbow and move your arm forwards and to the side at the shoulder 3 times every hour to prevent stiffness.
- **Do not use your hand for any activity. Do not even hold a piece of paper.** If you are concerned about your ability to cope with managing this please inform your nurse or therapist.
- **Do not drive. Seek advice about when to commence driving at your clinic appointment.**

To aid your comfort keep your hand(s) or arm(s) raised on a pillow when sitting or lying down and elevated above your heart level when walking around. This will help:

- Blood flow to your hands and arms
- Prevent swelling
- Help with pain relief.

If you have been given a splint to wear by the Occupational Therapist, **it is very important** that you carry on wearing it as you were shown. It will help you in the future with your hand movements.

problems

Please contact the ward where you were admitted should you have any of the following problems:

- Very swollen hand(s)
- Pain that is not relieved by taking your pain killers
- Worsening pins and needles or numbness in your hand(s)
- Bleeding that will not stop after applying gentle pressure
- Any redness on your skin which feels hot to the touch and goes past the end of the dressing
- You feel generally unwell
- Have a green/brown smelly discharge coming through the dressing.

Dressing Clinic

You will be given an appointment to attend dressing clinic

It is very important that you keep this appointment

The telephone number for the dressing clinic is: **0151 430 1285**
Please contact the clinic straight away if you will not be able to keep your appointment. If an ambulance has been arranged for you to return to the dressing clinic, **please be ready 2 hours before** your appointment time. This is because ambulances sometimes collect patients early and cannot wait for you to get ready.