

Patient information

Wig information

Coping with hair loss

One practical way of coping with hair loss is to wear a wig or hairpiece. There are many different styles and colours to choose from. They can be natural-looking and comfortable to wear.

Choosing a wig before your hair falls out means you can match the style and colour to your own hair and get used to wearing it. This means you will also have a wig ready, in case your hair falls out sooner than you expected.

Benefits of wearing a wig

- You look and feel more like yourself, which can make you feel more confident
- You are more in control of how you look and only need to tell people if you want to
- You can experiment with different colours and styles
- Some wigs need very little styling

What happens on the Judy Beard Day Unit / Pevensey Day Unit?

On your first visit to the unit, you will be given:

- **A WF1 form (this will clarify whether or not you need to pay the prescription charge)**

Do I have to pay a prescription charge?

There is a £71.25 prescription charge (from 1 April 2018) for each wig supplied which you will need to pay, unless you are exempt. You can qualify for a free NHS wig up to the value of £120 if:

- You are under 16, or under 19 and in full-time education
- You are a hospital inpatient
- Your weekly income is low
- You claim benefits
- You have a valid NHS tax exemption certificate
- You are named on a valid 'help with health costs' (HC2) certificate

For example: If you choose a wig that costs more than £120 and decide to purchase any extra items such as a stand or special shampoo and the total cost comes to say £150, the supplier will invoice you for the extra £30.

Total costs to you: prescription charge of £71.25 (unless you are exempt) plus any costs incurred with your wig supplier over the value of £120. Please note that some suppliers may charge an additional fee for a home visit.

Suppliers

Below are the details of three local wig suppliers. When choosing a supplier, you need to focus on who you feel would best suit your personal requirements.

East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust does not confer any recommendation of the following suppliers and is listing them for information purposes only. Your chosen supplier will be able to provide you with advice and answer any queries you may have.

1. A Touch of Glamour

Contact Name: Mrs Kathy Harmer
Website: www.wigsandcliponhair.co.uk
Telephone: (01424) 845041
Address: 14 Cooden Sea Road, Little Common, Bexhill-On-Sea, TN39 4SJ

Kathy runs a friendly and informal service within a small salon environment. A wide range of wigs and hairpieces are displayed for you to choose from, all from a variety of reputable wig suppliers, including Trendco.

2. Trendco

Contact Name: Gill or Phoebe
Website: www.trendco.co.uk
Telephone: 01273 778516
Address: Sheridan House, 114/116 Western Road, Hove, BN3 1DD

Trendco is a large, friendly salon that has been supplying hair replacement systems since 1965. They have a large and extensive range of wigs and hair pieces for you to choose from with the help of one of their resident stylists.

3. Hair Wig Go (formerly Wigs for You)

Contact Name: Mrs Lesley Corke
Website: www.hairwiggo.co.uk
Telephone: 01323 831778/07761 754977
Address: Tara House, Boreham Street, Hailsham, East Sussex BN27 4SE

Lesley is a qualified stylist who operates her business from Hailsham, where you can visit her to discuss your needs or alternatively, she offers home visits enabling you to be seen in the comfort and privacy of your own environment. Lesley can supply and modify a wide range of wigs and hairpieces, from a variety of reputable wig suppliers. Please note there may be an additional charge for a home visit.

Types of wig

Synthetic wigs

- They are cheaper than real-hair wigs, light and easier to look after
- The style is heat-sealed into the hair, so that they can be hand-washed with shampoo, left to dry overnight and are then ready to wear the next day
- They can be combed or brushed through gently
- They usually last for around 4 to 8 months

Human hair wigs

- They can cost anything from a few hundred to a few thousand pounds
- They may need regular cleaning and styling by a professional, which can be expensive
- Some can be shampooed and styled at home on a specially-designed wig block

Due to the high demand for real hair, human hair can be mixed with synthetic hair. The synthetic hairs will stretch and frizz when a hairdryer or hair straighteners are used. You can also use your own hair. Ask your wig supplier for more information about this.

Choosing a wig

When you attend an appointment with your chosen supplier, it is a good idea to take a family member or friend with you to help you choose. Some people like to choose their wig before their hair falls out, so they can match the style and colour to their own hair. The advantage of this is that if you lose your hair sooner than expected, you will be prepared. It also gives you a chance to get used to the wig before you really need it.

Wigs if you are black or from an ethnic minority group

You may need to contact a specialist wig supplier to find a suitable wig. Speak to your clinician or doctor for more information. You can also contact Cancer Black Care for support and advice on 020 8961 4151.

Support groups

Find out about support groups nearby by visiting www.macmillan.org.uk/selfhelpandsupport

Eligibility

You are entitled to two £120 wig vouchers. Additional wig vouchers are given if your current wig needs replacing. You will only have to pay if you would like any additional wigs. Please contact the Orthotics department for a quote and advice.

Contact us

Judy Beard Day Unit

Conquest Hospital
The Ridge
St Leonards-on-Sea, TN37 7RD
Tel: 01424 755255 Ext: 7030

Pevensey Day Unit

Eastbourne DGH
Kings Drive
Eastbourne, BN21 2UD
Tel: 01323 417400 Ext: 5867

Orthotics Department

Conquest Hospital
The Ridge
St Leonards-on-Sea
East Sussex, TN37 7RD
Tel: 01424 755255 Ext: 8547

Sources of information

“Coping with Hair Loss” booklet, Macmillan Cancer Support
www.alopeciaonline.org.uk - sharing with others regarding alopecia

Important information

This patient information is for guidance purposes only and is not provided to replace professional clinical advice from a qualified practitioner.

Your comments

We are always interested to hear your views about our leaflets. If you have any comments, please contact the Patient Experience Team – Tel: (01323) 417400 Ext: 5860 or by email at: esh-tr.patientexperience@nhs.net

Hand hygiene

The trust is committed to maintaining a clean, safe environment. Hand hygiene is very important in controlling infection. Alcohol gel is widely available at the patient bedside for staff use and at the entrance of each clinical area for visitors to clean their hands before and after entering.

Other formats

If you require any of the Trust leaflets in alternative formats, such as large print or alternative languages, please contact the Equality and Human Rights Department.

Tel: (01424) 755255 Ext: 2620

After reading this information are there any questions you would like to ask? Please list below and ask your nurse or doctor.

Reference

The following clinicians have been consulted and agreed this patient information:
Carole Crathern, Service Manager for Orthotics
Dee Daly, Lead Cancer Manager

Out of Hospital Division have agreed this patient information leaflet:

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Responsible clinician/author: Orthotics Team

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