

Dislocation of the Patella

Knee 1

Fracture Care Team: Shared Care Plan

Trust Switchboard for both sites: 0300 131 4500

Fracture clinic and orthopaedic outpatient appointments:

Eastbourne 0300 131 4788

Conquest 0300 131 4861

Casting Department: Eastbourne 0300 131 5564

Casting Department: Conquest 0300 131 4860

This information leaflet explains the ongoing management of your injury.

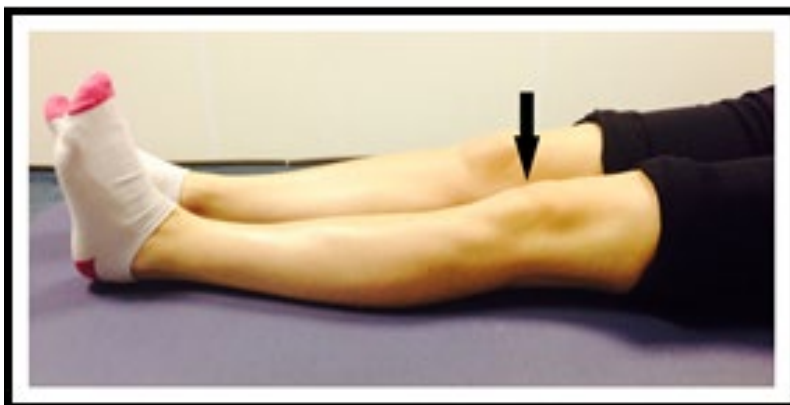
You have sustained a dislocation of your patella (knee cap). You may walk on your leg as comfort allows. You must wear the splint fitted by the Emergency Team. You can only remove the splint to wash your leg daily. You should keep your knee straight when washing it and replace the splint afterwards.

Your knee may be swollen. Resting and elevating it will help. Take pain killers as requested. If you are worried that you are unable to follow this rehabilitation plan, or have any questions, then please phone the Fracture Care Team for advice.

If you are experiencing pain or symptoms, other than at the site of the original injury or surrounding area, please get in touch using the telephone number at the top of this letter.

You will have an appointment in fracture clinic 1-2 weeks after your injury. They will assess your knee once the immediate pain and swelling has decreased. The specialist will decide if further treatment is required. They will organise these if needed. Many people benefit from physiotherapy and a referral will depend on the physiotherapy service in your area.

Picture of injury:



Please follow the Management / Rehabilitation plan shown below:

Weeks since injury	Rehabilitation plan
0 - 2	<p>Wear the splint fitted by the Emergency Department for 2 weeks and until seen in fracture clinic. You may remove it for personal hygiene and to apply a cold pack. You must keep your leg straight at all times. The splint can be worn under or over your clothes, whichever is most comfortable.</p> <p>You are allowed to put weight through the leg, with or without crutches, as comfortable.</p>
1 - 2	<p>Continue to wear the splint as advised in your fracture clinic appointment. You will have an appointment in fracture clinic for further assessment and ongoing advice with regards to rehabilitation.</p>
3	<p>Continue to wear the splint as advised in your fracture clinic appointment. You will be starting your physiotherapy (unless the doctor has decided to delay this following your fracture clinic appointment).</p>

Initial advice

Cold packs:

A cold pack (ice pack or frozen peas wrapped in a damp towel) can provide short term pain relief. Apply this to the sore area for up to 15 minutes, every few hours. The ice must never be in direct contact with the skin.

Rest and Elevation:

Try to rest the leg for the first 24-72 hours to allow the early stage of healing to begin. Raise your ankle above the level of your hips to reduce swelling. You can use pillows or a stool to keep your foot up.

Early weight-bearing and exercise:

Early weight bearing (putting weight through your injured leg whilst wearing the splint) helps increase the speed of healing.

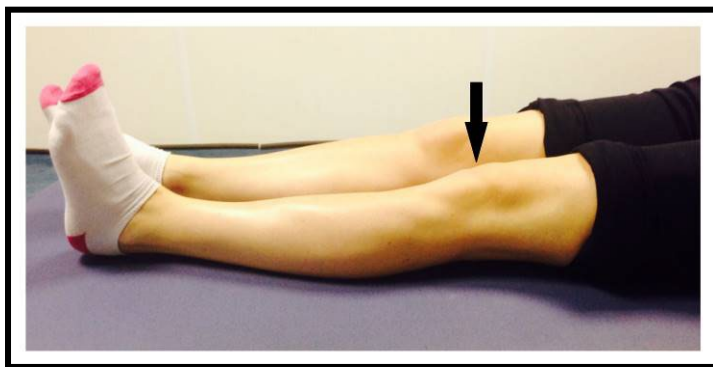
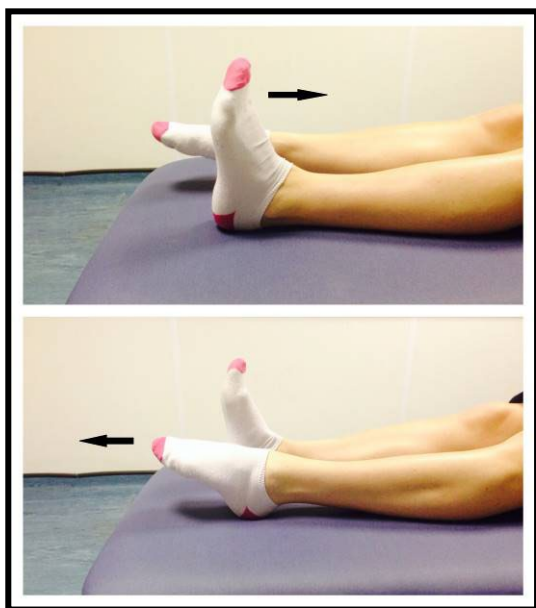
Early movement of the ankle and foot is important for circulation. Follow the exercises below. These should not cause too much pain. These exercises will help the healing process.

Fitting the Cricket pad splint



Place cricket pad splint on the leg so that your patella (knee cap) is in the middle hole of the splint, as shown below.

Initial exercise to do 3 times a day (with or without the splint)



1. Point your foot up and down. Repeat 10 times.
2. With the leg straight and supported, gently tense your thigh muscle and try to straighten your knee further. Hold for 10 seconds and repeat 7-10 times.

Sources of information

This information leaflet has been developed by the Fracture Care Team at Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals Fracture Care Team and adapted for use at East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust. Information updated during the COVID-19 pandemic to ensure that patients with injuries have information, support and care despite social distancing.

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 on 0300 131 4784 or esh-tr.patientexperience@nhs.net.

Hand hygiene

We are 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 our leaflets in alternative formats, such as large print or alternative languages, please contact the Equality and Human Rights Department on 0300 131 4434 or esh-tr.AccessibleInformation@nhs.net

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

Reference

Thank you to the Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals NHS Trust and to Kate Weatherly, Specialist Orthopaedic Physiotherapist for the first version.

This leaflet can also be found at: www.esht.nhs.uk/leaflet/dislocation-of-the-patella/

Mr Guy Selmon – Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon; Mr Adrian Butler-Manuel – Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon; Mr Richard Goddard – Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon
Mr Oliver Keast-Butler – Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon; Mr Andrew Armitage – Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon; Mr Simon Hoskinson – Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon
Helen Harper-Smith – Professional Lead Physiotherapist; Hilary Kircher – Clinical / Operational Lead Outpatient Physiotherapist

The Clinical Specialty/Unit that have agreed this patient information leaflet:
Diagnostic, Anaesthetic and Surgery - Department of Trauma and Orthopaedics

Next review date: September 2025
Responsible clinician/author: Helen Harper-Smith – Professional Lead Physiotherapist
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