



Shoulder replacement: resurfacing arthroplasty

Information for patients from the Trauma and Orthopaedics (T&O) Department

You have been diagnosed with shoulder osteoarthritis. This leaflet will explain what osteoarthritis is, the signs and symptoms, and how it can be diagnosed and treated within East Kent Hospitals. It will also provide you with information about what you need to do through the process.

If after reading this leaflet you still have questions or concerns, please speak to your surgeon or anaesthetist at your next appointment.

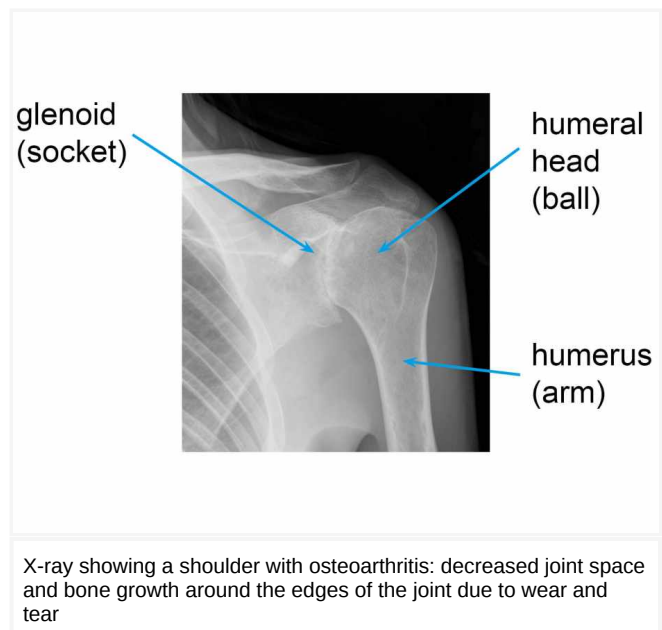
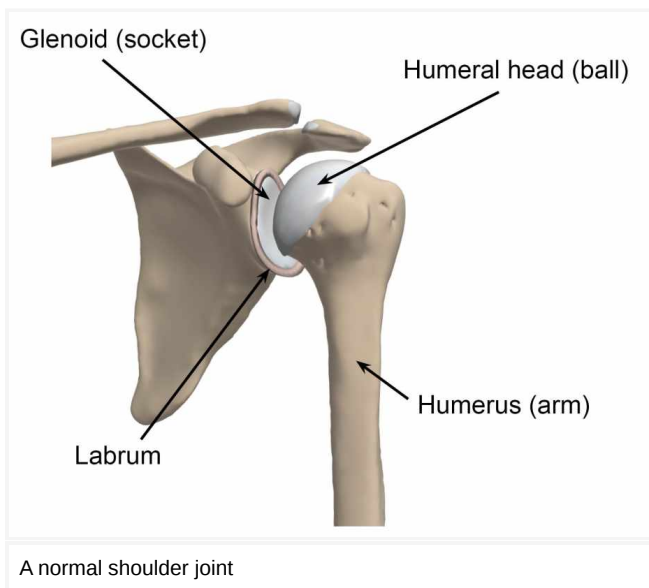
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What is shoulder osteoarthritis?

The shoulder joint is formed of a ball (the humeral head) and a socket (glenoid). It is a very mobile joint that allows a wide range of movements. The joint sometimes needs replacing due to wear and tear (osteoarthritis). This is usually when severe osteoarthritis affects the joint surfaces and the shoulder becomes painful and difficult to move.



What are the signs / symptoms of shoulder osteoarthritis?

- Pain, usually felt in the shoulder area.
- Difficulty sleeping on the affected side, due to pain.
- Sometimes you may have neck pain as well as shoulder pain. It may feel like something in your shoulder is catching, popping, or clicking when you move your arm in certain directions, this may be painful.
- Weakness in your shoulder.
- Your shoulder may not be able to move or work properly.

How can I help myself?

- When your shoulder hurts, you can place a bag of frozen peas wrapped in a damp tea towel over your shoulder for 10 minutes at a time; this may help to reduce the pain and inflammation (redness, heat, and swelling). Do not use these peas for eating once they have defrosted.
- Try to improve your posture (how you sit); hold your back straight and your shoulders back.
- If your symptoms get worse with daily activities, try to make simple changes to avoid pain. If your symptoms are aggravated by a sport you may benefit from advice from a coach / instructor regarding your techniques.
- Help keep your current shoulder movements, by moving your arm through the movements when possible.

What are the available treatment options?

- If you would like to avoid surgery, at least for the time being, you can keep your pain under control with **painkillers** (paracetamol and / or codeine) and / or **anti-inflammatory medication** (ibuprofen). You could also have a **steroid injection** in your shoulder to keep the pain under control temporarily.
- You could also benefit from making simple **changes to your daily routine and doing physiotherapy exercises**.
- If you have surgery, you could choose to have a **resurfacing of the ball of your shoulder joint or a total shoulder replacement**, which includes both the ball and the socket.

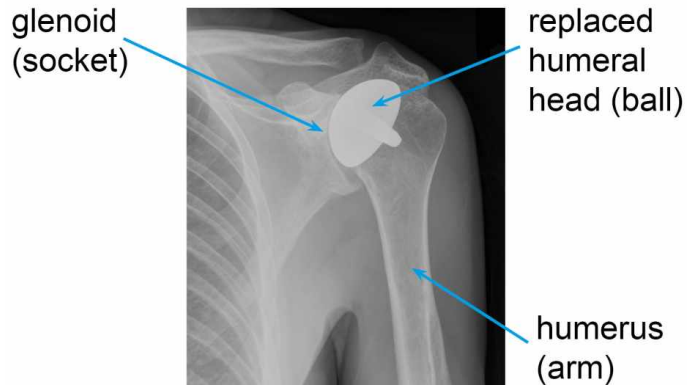
All the options available to you will be discussed with you before your treatment plan is decided.

If I have a shoulder resurfacing, what will happen during the procedure?

The main reason for this operation is to reduce your pain and improve how your shoulder works. The operation replaces the damaged surface of the ball of the joint.

Occasionally a different type of replacement may need to be used, such as a total shoulder replacement, which replaces both the ball and the socket. In case there is a change of plans, the doctors will discuss what surgery you have had after your operation. This will be discussed with you before you give your consent for surgery.

To do the surgery, your surgeon will make a 10 to 12cm cut on the side of your shoulder.



X-ray showing a shoulder with joint resurfacing, the ball has been replaced

Once the procedure is finished, your doctor will stitch up any cuts and dress your wound to keep it clean and prevent infection. Your wound will probably be closed with dissolvable sutures; these sutures are absorbed by your body. However, the knots at the end of the sutures need to be removed 10 to 14 days after your surgery.

How can I prepare for my surgery?

You will have a preassessment appointment before your surgery, to check if you are ready and fit for surgery. You will also be swabbed for MRSA and Covid-19, if necessary.

Before surgery it helps if you try to get as fit as possible to avoid anaesthetic risk and/or failure of the surgery. It is important that you lose weight if you are above your ideal weight.

- **Smoking advice**

It is important to stop smoking at least 30 days before your surgery. Studies have shown that wound healing is significantly delayed by smoking / nicotine, and the infection rate is much higher. Smoking also harms how your tendon heals following a repair, so smoking after your operation is also not advised.

If you need support to stop smoking, please contact One You Kent (<https://www.kentcht.nhs.uk/service/one-you-kent/>) on 0300 123 1220, or email (kentchft.oneyoukent@nhs.net).

- **How does eating a healthy diet help my recovery?**

Recovering from surgery can take a long time and it is normal to get frustrated and anxious. But remember that while you are recovering, there are some things you can do to help your wound to heal. We suggest limiting the amount of alcohol you drink, stopping smoking, eating a healthy diet, drinking plenty of fluids (especially water), and staying active. If you need any extra support, do not hesitate to get in touch with us on the contact numbers listed at the end of this leaflet.

Some painkillers (especially those containing Codeine) can cause constipation. To avoid this, please follow a healthy well-balanced diet rich in fruit, vegetables (including green leafy vegetables), nuts, seeds, wholegrains, and legumes, which contain the necessary fibre, and drink plenty of water. More

information is available on the NHS 5 A Day: what counts? web site (<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/eat-well/5-a-day/5-a-day-what-counts/>).

While you wait for your surgery date, you can start preparing for your operation. Research shows that fitter patients, who are able to improve their health and activity levels before surgery, recover more quickly. Taking an active role in planning and preparing for your operation will help you:

- feel in control
- leave hospital sooner, and
- get back to normal more quickly.

To help with this, you may be contacted by a member of the One You Kent (OYK) team. OYK work in the community, and help patients improve their general health. This includes help and advice on:

- Stopping smoking
- Losing weight
- Getting more exercise

More information can be found on the following web sites.

- One You Kent (<https://www.kentcht.nhs.uk/service/one-you-kent/>) (Kent Community Health)
- Fitter Better Sooner Toolkit (<https://www.cpoc.org.uk/patients/fitter-better-sooner-toolkit>) (Royal College of Anaesthetists)

What happens on the day of my surgery?

- Please arrange for someone to pick you up from the hospital after your surgery, as you will not be able to **drive** yourself. Please make sure to arrange this before your surgery.
- To avoid complications with your anaesthetic, you should not **eat** anything for six hours before your surgery, or drink anything for two hours. You will be given further instructions during your preassessment.
- On the day of your surgery, you can take your **usual medication** as advised during your preassessment. If possible, do not take non-steroidal anti-inflammatory medication, such as ibuprofen and naproxen, for at least 10 days before your surgery, as they can affect how your wound heals. Please bring any medications that you are taking into the hospital with you.
- If possible, please **wear loose-fitting clothes**, as after surgery you will be wearing a sling.
- **Bring your appointment letter** with you, so you know which department to come to when you arrive at the hospital.
- At arrival, you will be asked to put a hospital gown on, and maybe a pair of compression stockings.
- You will see the anaesthetic and surgical team before your surgery to go through the consent form and discuss any questions you may still have. Remember you can withdraw your consent for treatment at any time.

- You may be tested for Covid-19. All appropriate precautions will be taken during your admission to minimise the risk of contracting the illness as per Healthcare England Guidelines.

Information for patients having an operation / procedure as an inpatient

For more information, please ask a member of staff for a copy of the Trust booklet **Information for patients having an operation / procedure as an inpatient**, or scan this QR code.



<https://leaflets.ekhuft.nhs.uk/information-for-patients-having-an-operation-procedure-as-an-inpatient>

What kind of anaesthetic will I need?

This procedure is usually performed under general anaesthetic (you will be asleep for the procedure). However, you may be offered the option of “awake anaesthesia” during your surgery to avoid putting a tube into your windpipe. This may be discussed and decided with you and the anaesthetist on the day of your surgery. Should you be suitable for this type of anaesthesia, it is important to understand and be assured that you will be kept comfortable, and you will not feel any pain during your procedure. Patients describe their experience after this type of “awake anaesthetic” as if waking up from a usual night’s sleep, as it is often supplemented with some light sedation. If you need any more information, please speak to your anaesthetist before your procedure.

In addition, a local anaesthetic or nerve block is used during your operation. As a result, your shoulder and arm may feel numb for a few hours after your operation. **It is important to take your pain medications during this time, to allow a gentle and easier control of pain when the nerve block wears off and your shoulder is likely to be sore and uncomfortable.**

What are the complications and risks?

As with all surgery, there are a few risks and complications. These are rare and will be discussed with you before your surgery.

Anaesthetic risks will be discussed with your anaesthetist on the day of your surgery.

- **Wound infection:** we do everything we can to avoid this but an infection might still happen. If your wound becomes increasingly red or swollen after your surgery, please contact your GP or speak to your surgical team.
- **Bleeding:** this could happen during your surgery; we will do our best to stop it as soon as possible. However, some oozing could still happen after your surgery. For more information, see the **What if my wound bleeds at home?** section below.
- **Deep vein thrombosis (DVT)** (<https://leaflets.ekhuft.nhs.uk/deep-vein-thrombosis>) **and / or pulmonary embolism (PE)** (<https://leaflets.ekhuft.nhs.uk/pulmonary-embolus>). These are blood clots which form in the blood stream and can be serious conditions. Compression stockings and other measures might be taken by the hospital to avoid them.
- **Soft tissue (nerve / tendon / blood vessel) injury** could happen during surgery. We will try our best to avoid any damage.

- **Continued pain and Chronic Regional Pain Syndrome (CRPS).** This is a condition where a person has persistent, severe, and debilitating pain. Although most cases of CRPS are triggered by an injury, the resulting pain is much more severe and long-lasting than normal.
- **Stiffness / loss of movement** that may rarely cause frozen shoulder; your shoulder is painful and stiff for months or sometimes years. This could be avoided or improved if you take adequate pain relief and do the exercises listed at the end of this leaflet as your pain permits.
- **Numbness / tingling in your arm** should stop after a few months. Please speak to your surgeon about this at your follow-up clinic appointment.
- **Fracture to the bones (humerus and shoulder blade) surrounding your shoulder joint.**
- **Over time the prosthesis could cause the soft tissues around your shoulder and the bone of the socket to wear.** If this happens it could lead to you needing further treatment or having this procedure again. However, it is usually several years before this happens.

How long will I stay in hospital?

You will usually be in hospital for one day after your operation, depending on how you recover.

You will be taken to the ward until it is safe for you to be discharged home. You will be seen by your surgeon, your nurse practitioner (surgical care practitioner), and / or your physiotherapist before you go home. They will show you what exercises to do and give you further advice to guide you through your recovery.

As you have to stay overnight, make sure you bring with you items you may need, such as hygiene items (toothpaste and toothbrush), a dressing gown, slippers, and your usual medication. Also, we suggest you bring a book or magazine, in case there is a delay.

Will I be in pain after my surgery?

This surgery may be uncomfortable, you will need appropriate pain relief in the period after your surgery. If your anaesthetist has given you a nerve block, your shoulder and arm may feel numb and weak. You may not feel any pain immediately after your surgery, as the block may take 12 to 24 hours to wear off completely.

You will be given painkillers when you leave the hospital, to take at home; these should last for at least two weeks. It is very important that you take your pain relief as advised and as early as you can before the nerve block wears off; this will help you to keep on top of your discomfort. It is advisable to take your painkillers regularly for the first few days. If possible, avoid non-steroidal anti-inflammatory medication, such as ibuprofen and naproxen, for at least 10 days before your surgery and six weeks following surgery. This is because anti-inflammatory medication could slow down the healing process.

Take pain relief regularly to try and keep your level of discomfort at a bearable level at all times. This allows the inflammation (redness, swelling, and heat) and pain to settle. Do not wait until your shoulder is very painful to take the pain relief, as it is then more difficult to control.

What painkillers will I be sent home with?

- Surgical patients might be given some of the following painkillers, depending on their age, body weight, and individual circumstances, unless told otherwise by their doctor.

- Take each painkiller as advised on your prescription.
 - Tablet paracetamol, 1g every four to six hours (no more than 4g per day).
 - Codeine Phosphate, 30 to 60mg every six to eight hours.
 - Tablet Tramadol, 50 to 100mg every eight hours.
 - Oramorph, 10 to 20mg every hour, as needed.
 - Anti-inflammatories may be prescribed; but you should try and take as few as possible immediately after your surgery.

Please note that Codeine, Oramorph, and Tramadol should not be taken together; you should only take one of the three at any one time.

Ice packs or bags of frozen peas may also help reduce your pain. Wrap the pack/bag with a cloth and place it on your shoulder for up to 15 minutes. Do not use these peas for eating once they have defrosted.

If your pain continues and is not controlled with the medication you have been advised to take, then please contact your GP. You may also contact the East Kent Upper Limb Team if you need further help.

If you notice your wound area is becoming more painful, red, hot, and / or discharging pus (thick yellow discharge), you may be developing an infection. Contact your GP or your surgical team for advice as soon as possible.

How do I care for my wound at home?

As you had a keyhole surgery, there will be few (around three) keyhole incisions (cuts) around your shoulder, including one or two at the back.

It is important to keep your wound and dressing dry and in place until your wound is well healed, and have your stitches removed at your two week follow-up appointment with your GP practice nurse or at the hospital, with your surgeon or your nurse practitioner (surgical care practitioner). You will be told where your follow-up appointment is going to be before you leave the hospital.

If the dressing gets wet or bloodstained, you can change them yourself by carefully placing a dressing from a pharmacy. If you are unable or have difficulties doing this yourself, you can ask a relative or a friend to change it for you, or you can make an appointment with your GP practice nurse to do it for you.

If you are being seen by your GP practice nurse for a wound check 10 to 14 days after your surgery, please make sure the nurse reads the following. These instructions are for healthy looking surgical wounds only.

- ***Colourful stitches are non-absorbable and need to be completely removed to avoid them getting buried under the patient's skin.**
- ***White / clear stitches are absorbable. If any suture knots have been made outside the patient's skin, please remove these to avoid suture abscesses. Thank you.**

***The appearance and material of the sutures can be different from Trust to Trust, but these are the most common.**

If a wound does not seem to be healing appropriately, please leave the stitches / knots in place and make another appointment to remove them in few days.

How long will my wound(s) take to heal?

Wounds usually take between 10 to 14 days to heal.

The area around your wounds may have some numbness, which is usually temporary. You may feel occasional sharp pains or 'twinges', as well as itching near your scar as it settles.

What if my wound bleeds at home?

There may be minor bleeding or clear fluid oozing from your wound in the first day or two following surgery. If your dressing gets wet or bloodstained, you may need to replace it. You can change this yourself by carefully placing a dressing from a pharmacy. If you are unable to or have difficulties doing this yourself, you can ask a relative or a friend to change for you, or you can arrange an appointment with your GP practice nurse to do it for you. You should be able to control this bleeding or oozing by pressing firmly but gently on your wound for 15 minutes.

If you are worried about the bleeding, you can contact the hospital on the number given to you (during normal working hours) or attend a walk-in centre or Emergency Department (after hours).

Can I have a bath or shower?

You should have a 'dry wash' or a shallow bath instead of a shower. This keeps your arm in the correct position and prevents your dressing and sling from becoming wet.

While your wound is still healing:

- do not use soaps, lotions, creams, or powders on your wounds, to avoid any infection getting into your wound(s); and
- keep your wound(s) dry at all times.

You can go back to normal cleaning routine once your wound is completely healed.

Why am I wearing a sling after my surgery?

You will return from surgery wearing a sling. This is used for the first three weeks following your operation to allow the soft tissues to heal.

A physiotherapist will teach you how to take it on and off to do your exercises.

What is the best position to sleep in?

To begin with sleeping will be difficult. Take regular painkillers and try to support your shoulder by placing pillows behind it. If you lie on your back, a pillow under your arm and elbow may make you feel more comfortable. You may find it easier to lay on your non-operated side.

You can lie on your operated shoulder as soon as you feel comfortable and confident to do so, but it could take a couple of months before you can do this.

When can I drive again?

You will not be able to drive for at least three weeks following your surgery. Your surgeon will tell you when you can drive again.

The advice from the DVLA is that you should not drive until you are physically capable of controlling a motor vehicle and can perform an emergency manoeuvre safely and confidently.

Please arrange for someone to collect you from hospital and take you home after your surgery.

When can I return to work?

This will depend on your job and how extensive your surgery was.

You can start light activities which involve using your arm in front of your body about three weeks after your surgery, such as office work. If your job involves heavy lifting you will need to be off work for up to three months.

Your surgeon will advise you on how long you will need to be off work; you can ask for a sick note before you leave the hospital.

When can I start my normal activities?

A physiotherapist will see you in hospital to give you advice about using your arm and doing exercises. Outpatient physiotherapy will be arranged when you are discharged from hospital.

Your arm will be painful at first. For the first three to four weeks you will be quite one handed, which will affect how you carry out your daily activities. As your pain improves so will how you can use your arm.

Most light activities are usually possible four to six weeks after surgery. However the strength in your arm will take longer to improve, and will be depend on the amount of pain and stiffness you had before your surgery.

When should I start noticing improvement?

This varies and depends on how much movement and strength your muscles had before surgery. After you are discharged from hospital, your pain will slowly get better and you will become more confident. You will be able to use your arm in front of you for light activities. After six weeks your strength will start to improve.

Will I have a follow-up appointment?

Before you leave hospital, an appointment will be made for you to have a follow-up appointment at the Upper Limb Unit. At this appointment you will be seen by a physiotherapist, surgical care practitioner, or surgeon who will check your progress, make sure you are moving your arm, and give you further exercises as appropriate.

This appointment will usually be three to four weeks after your surgery. You will be monitored by a physiotherapist throughout your rehabilitation.

What if I have any questions or concerns?

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your surgical care practitioner or physiotherapist. Their contact details are listed at the end of this leaflet.

If you notice your wound area is becoming more painful, red, hot, and / or discharging pus (thick yellow discharge) you may be developing an infection. Contact your GP or your surgical team for advice as soon as possible.

Exercises you can do after surgery, before your first physiotherapy appointment

Before starting the following exercises, please take painkillers and use ice, if needed. It is normal to experience some pain and discomfort when you perform any exercises. If you experience prolonged pain or discomfort when moving, then do the exercises less forcefully or less often. If this does not help, speak to your physiotherapist.

It is best if you do a few short sessions (two to four times a day, for five to 10 minutes each time) rather than one long session. Gradually increase the number of repetitions you do.

Physiotherapy guidelines while you are still in the hospital

- An outpatient physiotherapy referral will be arranged by a member of the inpatient physiotherapy team.
- You will be shown how to put on and care for your sling.
- You will be shown the following exercises on the ward:
 - elbow, wrist, and hand exercises
 - shoulder girdle and posture exercises
 - pendular shoulder exercises (in the sling for Mr Murthy's patients)
 - assisted movements in to shoulder flexion
 - gentle static (isometric) contractions, except internal rotation.

Hand exercises

- Open and close your fist 20 times.

Wrist exercises

- Move your wrist up and down 20 times.

Forearm exercises

- Turn your palm up and down 20 times.

Elbow exercises

- Bend and straighten your elbow 20 times. This can be completed with help from your other arm.

Shoulder girdle and posture

- Try not to slouch after your surgery.
- Try pulling your shoulder blades back and down 20 times.

Pendular exercises

- Lean forwards, supporting yourself with your other arm.
- Swing your operated arm forwards and backwards gently, like a pendulum.
- Do this 20 times.

Shoulder exercises

- Lay down and lift your operated arm up, with help from your other arm.
- Do this 10 times.
- When you are able, do this exercise sitting up.

Isometric static contractions (1)

- Gently rotate the operated side out to the side, resisting with your other hand.
- Hold for 10 seconds.
- Do this three times.

Isometric static contractions (2)

- Gently push your operated arm out to the side, resisting with your other hand.
- Hold for 10 seconds.
- Do this three times.

Isometric static contractions (3)

- Gently push your operated arm forwards, resisting with your other hand.
- Hold for 10 seconds.
- Do this three times.

Physiotherapy guidelines once you leave the hospital

You will be shown further exercises at your outpatient physiotherapy appointment or clinic appointment. If you have any questions, please contact the physiotherapists listed at the end of this leaflet.

Contact details

Consultants and their secretaries

- The teams listed below work at Kent and Canterbury Hospital as well.

Hospital site	Consultant	Secretary	Contact number
Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother (QEQM) Hospital, Margate	Mr Sathya Murthy	Tracy Blackman	01843 235068
Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother (QEQM) Hospital, Margate	Mr Georgios Arealis	Donna Cannon	01843 235083
William Harvey Hospital, Ashford	Mr Paolo Consigliere	Heather Littlejohn	01233 616280
William Harvey Hospital, Ashford	Mr Jai Relwani	Dione Allen	01233 616737
William Harvey Hospital, Ashford	Surgical Care Practitioner	Alphonsa Augustine	07929 375381

Physiotherapists

Hospital site	Physiotherapist	Contact number
Buckland Hospital, Dover	Abi Lipinski	01304 222659
Kent and Canterbury Hospital, Canterbury	Sarah Gillet (inpatient)	01227 866365
Kent and Canterbury Hospital, Canterbury	Darren Base	01227 783065
Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother (QEQM) Hospital, Margate	Caroline Phillpott (inpatient)	01843 234575
Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother (QEQM) Hospital, Margate	Martin Creasey	01843 235096
Royal Victoria Hospital, Folkestone	Ailsa Sutherland	01303 854410
William Harvey Hospital, Ashford	Cindy Gabett (inpatient)	01233 633331
William Harvey Hospital, Ashford	Chris Watts	01233 616085

Surgical Preassessment Units

Hospital site	Contact number
Kent and Canterbury Hospital, Canterbury	01227 783114
Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother (QEQM) Hospital, Margate	01843 235115
William Harvey Hospital, Ashford	01233 616743

Fracture Clinics

Hospital site	Contact number
Kent and Canterbury Hospital, Canterbury	01227 783075
Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother (QEQM) Hospital, Margate	01843 235056
William Harvey Hospital, Ashford	01233 616849

This leaflet has been produced with and for patients.

Please let us know:

- If you have any accessibility needs; this includes needing a hearing loop or wanting someone to come with you to your appointment.
- If you need an interpreter.
- If you need this information in another format (such as Braille, audio, large print or Easy Read).

You can let us know this by:

- Visiting the Trust web site (<https://www.ekhuft.nhs.uk/ais>).
- Calling the number at the top of your appointment letter.
- Adding this information to the Patient Portal (<https://pp.ekhuft.nhs.uk/login>).
- Telling a member of staff at your next appointment.

Any complaints, comments, concerns or compliments, please speak to a member of your healthcare team. Or contact the Patient Advice and Liaison Service on 01227 783145 or email (ekh-tr.pals@nhs.net).

Patients should not bring large sums of money or valuables into hospital. Please note that East Kent Hospitals accepts no responsibility for the loss or damage to personal property, unless the property has been handed into Trust staff for safe-keeping.

Further patient information leaflets are available via the East Kent Hospitals' web site (<https://www.ekhuft.nhs.uk/patient-information>).

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