

# Advice and exercises for a dislocated shoulder

### Department of Physiotherapy

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Information for Patients

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You have dislocated your shoulder.

The soft tissues of your shoulder joint will be affected.

It may take up to 2 to 3 weeks to get better.

During this time, you may feel pain and weakness in the shoulder. It may take a few weeks / months to regain your full shoulder strength.

When your shoulder was put back in you were given some drugs. The drugs used may affect your short term memory and you may feel dizzy. Both these symptoms should not last longer than a few hours.

### Immediate care for your shoulder after dislocation

- Wear your sling underneath your clothes and under a T-shirt at night for 2 to 3 days
- You can remove the sling when it is comfortable to do so. You should not wear the sling after 2 weeks
- Take regular pain medication as needed
- Let pain and confidence be a guide to moving your shoulder / arm using the exercises in this leaflet
- Do not drive, play sport or do manual labour until told that you are safe to do so by a clinician in Fracture Clinic at your follow up appointment.

### **Exercises**

Start these wrist and elbow exercises straight away by sliding off your sling. This will stop these joints from becoming stiff. **Do these exercises 3 times a day.** 

## Health information and support is available at www.nhs.uk or call 111 for non-emergency medical advice

Visit www.leicestershospitals.nhs.uk for maps and information about visiting Leicester's Hospitals To give feedback about this information sheet, contact InformationForPatients@uhl-tr.nhs.uk





Gently bend your arm up and down.

Repeat up to 10 times



Hold your affected arm above the elbow. Gently turn your palm up and down. Repeat up to 10 times



Support your wrist on the edge of a table. Move your wrist / hand up and down

Repeat up to 10 times



Support your wrists on the edge of a table. Interlink your fingers. Move your wrist / hand up and down

Repeat up to 10 times

### After 3 days if your symptoms have eased, start these exercises in the sling \_\_\_ times as day.



Bend forward. Hold your affected arm in the sling. Gently lift your arm forward up to shoulder height Hold 5 seconds

Repeat up to 10 times



Bend forward. Hold your affected arm in the sling. Move your arm across your body gently, side to side.

Hold 5 seconds.

Repeat up to times.

### When the sling is removed, do these exercises gently in comfortable range 3 to 5 times a day.



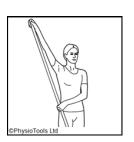
Hold the wrist of your affected arm and assist lifting your arm up, within comfortable range.

Repeat up to 10 times



For your affected shoulder, place your palm on the wall. Now slide your hand up and down the wall as far as is comfortable.

Repeat up to 10 times



Place your affected hand on one end of a stick / broom and your other hand on the other end. Gently move your arm up to the side.

Repeat up to 10 times.



Sit on a chair at a table. Place your arms on table and slide forward and back as far as you can comfortably.

Now sitting side-on to a table, slide your arm to the side as far as you can comfortably.

Repeat up to 10 times.

### Early strengthening exercises, do 3 to 5 times daily



Stand sideways against a wall with your upper arm close to your side and elbow at a right angle.

Push the forearm to the side against the wall.

Hold 5 seconds. Repeat up to 10 times.



Stand with your upper arm close to your side, elbow at a right angle and the back of your hand against a wall.

Push the back of your hand against the wall.

Hold 5 seconds. Repeat up to 10 times



Stand in a doorway with you elbow bent to a right angle and close to your body. Place your hand against the wall. Push your hand inwards against the wall.

Hold 5 seconds. Repeat up to 10 times



Stand with your back against the wall. Keep your upper arm close to the side of your body and elbow bent to a right angle. Push the elbow back against the wall.

Hold 5 seconds. Repeat up to 10 times



Stand facing a wall. Keep your upper arm close to the side with your elbow at a right angle. Push your fist against the wall.

Hold 10 seconds. Repeat up to 10 times



Patient Information Forum



### **Contact details:**

Physiotherapy departments

**Glenfield Hospital** 0116 258 4073

Leicester General Hospital 0116 256 3595

Leicester Royal Infirmary 0116 258 5816

Opening times 8:30am to 4:30pm

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