



Care of Plaster Casts

Service provided by

Sirona
care & health

Care of plaster casts

Please help us by looking after your plaster. It is an essential part of your treatment. We hope that the following will help you:

Do

- Exercise joints not held in the plaster as much as possible
- Do not let your limb hang down unless it is being used. Elevate the limb, especially during the first 2 weeks
- Use sticks, crutches or frame as instructed. Please return equipment when it is no longer needed
- Keep your plaster completely dry
- Take advice before driving
- Take advice before flying or travelling

Do not

- Interfere with your plaster in any way
- Poke anything down your plaster
- Write on your plaster of Paris for 48 hours after it has been applied
- Leave your limb unsupported or stand for long periods
- Stand or put weight on your plastered limb unless instructed by the doctor, nurse or physiotherapist
- Knock, cut or bump your plaster

- Sit too close to a fire, as your plaster may become hot and burn you
- Get the plaster wet. It may disintegrate or cause skin problems
- Do not smoke as smoking slows down bone healing

Please call us if your plaster:

- Rubs
- Cracks
- Itches excessively
- Softens
- Becomes loose or uncomfortable

Please seek medical attention immediately if any of the following occur:

- Your toes or fingers become blue, pale or discoloured
- You have swelling which is causing discomfort
- Your limb becomes more painful
- You feel “pins and needles” or numbness
- You have a blisterlike pain or rubbing under the plaster
- You have discharge, wetness or smell under your cast
- You drop any object down inside your cast

Pain relief medication

Pain relief medication can help you to reduce the pain allowing you to undertake any suggested exercises and movements of the injury. Moving will help ease the pain and speed up your recovery significantly. Simple pain relief medications such as Paracetamol and Ibuprofen are often all that is required. Please read the medication instructions before taking anything.

Call 111 if you urgently need medical help or advice but it's not a life-threatening situation.

For less urgent health needs, contact your GP or local pharmacist in the usual way.

Contact us

Our minor injury and urgent treatment centres support the local community with urgent minor injuries and/or illnesses. They are led by our specialist emergency nurse practitioners, who are fully trained in both adult and paediatric care.

They are walk-in centres so you don't need an appointment or a referral – you can just arrive at the centre during opening hours. These centres are not appropriate for life-threatening injuries or serious illnesses.

Bristol Urgent Treatment Centre **Minor injuries and illnesses**

Open 8am–8pm, 7 days a week

South Bristol NHS Community Hospital

Hengrove Promenade

Hengrove, Bristol BS14 0DE

T: **0117 342 9692**

Yate Minor Injury Unit

Minor injuries only

Open 8am–8pm, 7 days a week

Yate West Gate Centre

21 West Walk, Yate BS37 4AX

T: **01454 315 355**

Clevedon Minor Injury Unit

Minor injuries only

Open 8am–8pm, 7 days a week

North Somerset Community Hospital

Old Street, Clevedon BS21 6BS

T: **01275 546852**



Let us know what you think and get involved

T: 0300 124 5300*

E: sirona.hello@nhs.net

W: www.sirona-cic.org.uk

*Calls from landlines are charged up to 10p per minute; calls from mobiles vary, please check with your network provider. This is not a premium-rate number.

This document can be provided in other formats and languages, please contact us for more information.

Date of creation: 07/20

Date for review: 07/22

URN: 0056

Registered office

Sirona care & health CIC,
2nd Floor, Kingswood Civic Centre,
High Street, Kingswood,
Bristol BS15 9TR
Company Number: 07585003