

INFORMATION FOR PATIENTS

Total hip replacement (THR)

Introduction

Welcome to the patient information and advice booklet for total hip replacements.

This booklet is designed to help increase your understanding of what to expect during your stay and recovery at home following your total hip replacement surgery.

Please read through this booklet and bring it with you when you come in to hospital. It contains useful information and exercises you will need to follow.

The hip joint is a 'ball and socket joint' which is formed by the head of the femur (thigh bone) and the hip acetabulum (hip socket). Arthritis can affect the hip due to many reasons, which may lead to needing a total hip replacement.

What is a total hip replacement (THR)?

A total hip replacement is an operation usually done to relieve pain in the hip caused by arthritis. There are many different types of hip replacements and your surgeon will select the most appropriate for you. Most hip replacements last between 10 to 15 years.

Why might I need a total hip replacement?

The main reason for needing a hip replacement is arthritis of the joint. This is a condition that can develop over time as people get older. The condition causes wear and tear of the hip joint, narrowing the cartilage and changing the bone which can result in pain, stiffness, decreased function and mobility. Many people may have these changes to their joints and not know about it, but as the condition develops and you experience more symptoms, then a hip replacement may be considered.

A hip replacement may correct the changes that have occurred at the joint due to arthritis, which may have resulted in using the leg less and favouring your other leg. Over time this can result in tightness and weakness in the muscle that may still be present after the operation. This will be one of the reasons you will need to follow your physiotherapy exercise program and advice.

Other treatment options

Physiotherapy

Before having a hip replacement you may have undergone physiotherapy treatment. It is likely that you have struggled with pain for some time in the hip, which can lead to decreased movement and strength.

Physiotherapy can help you to stretch and strengthen muscles and you will be given advice on how best to manage your activities and pain. In some cases, physiotherapy can help reduce symptoms efficiently enough to not require an operation for quite some time.

Steroid injections

A steroid injection may be offered if you are experiencing pain in the hip. This can be given at an outpatient appointment and it **may** increase your pain for the first 48 hours. The injection is usually a combination of local anaesthetic and steroid, with the aim to reduce inflammation and therefore pain.

Steroid injections can take up to six weeks to work and can have long lasting effects. The benefits of these injections can vary greatly from person to person.

Pain relief

Medication, such as pain relief and non-steroidal anti-inflammatories (NSAIDs), can help you to manage your pain and therefore continue with your activities of daily living as best as possible.

Consult your GP or pharmacist for advice on the most appropriate pain relief for you. Most people should require pain killers occasionally and you should aim to avoid becoming dependent upon very strong painkillers.

Benefits of a hip replacement

The surgery will involve replacing the whole hip joint which has been affected. The aim of your hip replacement is to reduce your pain levels, improve your mobility and subsequently improve your quality of life. Some people can return to sports like golf and swimming.

It is likely that modern hip replacements can last for at least 10-15 years. The duration of the replacement may vary. In order to help improve the outcome following your hip replacement, it would help to be as fit as you can with appropriate weight management and exercises before and after your operation. It is also beneficial to try to cut down your painkillers, and reduce or stop alcohol intake and smoking.

Possible risks of surgery

There are possible risks of any surgery, however, your pre-operative assessment will attempt to highlight the risk and minimise it where possible. The possible complications you may be exposed to include:

Deep vein thrombosis (DVT)

A DVT is a blood clot in the leg, which can occur after any operation, but is more common after operations on the leg. The risk of a DVT is increased in those who have had previous clots or are significantly overweight.

Infection

There is a risk of infection with any surgery involving breaking into the skin. To avoid infection you will be screened for bacteria and will be given a special wash to use before and after your operation. Symptoms you may experience include feeling unwell, having a temperature, a sharp increase in pain or a wound that is leaking.

Pulmonary embolism (PE)	A PE is a blood clot in the lung, which can occur when a blood clot breaks away from a limb and travels to the lungs. You may develop chest pain and significant shortness of breath.
Bleeding	There is a risk of bleeding with all surgery but this is minimised as much as possible.
Ongoing pain	After the operation you will experience pain, which will be different to the pain that you felt before the surgery. Total hip replacement surgery is significant and the pain can take weeks to months to settle down. People who were on very strong painkillers regularly before the operation, and those who do not exercise, find it more difficult after the operation.
Instability	The joint can loosen from the fixing in your bone, but this is uncommon. You may need other surgery to fix it if this is the case.
Dislocation	In some cases, the hip can dislocate, this can be due to many different reasons.
Stiffness	Stiffness can occur and for some people it can cause less movement than before the operation. Regularly following your exercise program will help to prevent this.
Nerve injury	The surgery can aggravate the nerves around the hip and it is common to have a numb patch around the hip for up to 2 years after the operation.
Fracture	There are occasions where a bone may break during the procedure, but this is uncommon and is rarely serious.
Amputation	This is a major surgical procedure and so there is a risk of amputation, but it is very rare.
Loss of life	Death from this surgery is very rare and may happen. The risk is minimised as best as possible through pre-operative assessment and monitoring.
Leg length difference	Due to inserting the metal work into the joint, there is a chance of a difference in the length of your legs. Every effort is made to ensure leg lengths are the same.

For detection and signs of these complications please refer to the post-operative section of this booklet.

Considerations before your operation

There are certain things you can prepare for prior to discharge, which will ensure there are no delays in you going home. The following list is things to consider:

- Ensure your house is safe to return to when you leave hospital and it's easier to tidy.
- If you feel you may need help at home, think about someone staying with you to provide help.
- Ask your friends and family if they can help with your shopping, cleaning, or other difficult tasks.
- Think beforehand about personal hygiene, it can be difficult to shower or bath after the operation.
- If you feel you may not be able to do the stairs after the replacement, think about space for a bed downstairs and have it set up for you ready for your return home.
- If downstairs living is an option, you may need a commode which can be discussed with the occupational therapists.
- If you live alone, keep a phone by your bed. Throughout the day keep a mobile phone with you.
- Remove falls risks, such as loose rugs and cables.
- Plan beforehand with meals. It may be easier to use your microwave and stock up with microwave meals.

Health advice before surgery

In order to reduce the risk of post-operative complications and to optimise your recovery, it is important to be leading a healthy lifestyle before your operation.

Diet

The National Institute for Healthcare and Excellence (NICE) guidelines suggest following a dietary pattern which includes eating **vegetables, fruit, beans and pulses, wholegrains and fish**. It may also be beneficial to reduce the amount of processed foods that are eaten (fried foods, biscuits, confectionary and fizzy drinks) and substituting these for fruit, vegetables or water. It is advised to use food and drink labels to choose options lower in fat and sugar and focus on portion sizes and avoiding additional servings.

Alcohol

Alcohol can add additional calories consumed per day, which can add to weight gain and an unhealthy lifestyle. It is advised not to regularly drink more than 14 units of alcohol a week (equivalent to six pints of average strength beer and 10 small glasses of low strength wine). To reduce alcohol consumption, try replacing alcoholic drinks with non-alcoholic drinks that do not contain added sugar, and increase the number of alcohol free days that you have.

Smoking

Smoking can have an effect on your overall health, including slowing down the body's natural healing process which can affect recovery after your operation.

There are many resources to help with quitting smoking such as the NHS website and stop smoking mobile apps. In addition your GP or healthcare professional can refer you to a smoking cessation service to help you quit.

Physical activity

Physical activity can help to lose or maintain a healthy weight, boost mood and assist in leading a healthy lifestyle. Find an activity that you enjoy as this will help you to stick to it and increase the amount of activity that you do. Taking regular breaks from sitting activities and reducing time spent watching TV or being sedentary will help in being more active.

If you are normally a carer for somebody you may need to organise additional help for after your operation. If you do not have help from immediate friends or family, you can contact the Nottingham County Council Customer Services "Golden Number" for help and support.

Golden Number: 0300 500 80 80

After your operation, for the first four to six weeks, you may be in some discomfort and less mobile and able than before the operation. It is therefore important to think about extra help that you may need at home with washing, dressing, shopping, cooking and cleaning. If you are a carer for somebody else, it is also advisable to try and organise someone to cover or help with this.

Pre-operative assessment

You will have an assessment before your operation to check your general health, ensure you are fit for surgery, to highlight any possible risks and to take steps to minimise these. During your assessment it is likely that you will be measured for your height, weight, blood pressure, heart rate, oxygen levels and you may be asked to complete a urine sample, have a blood test or have swabs completed. If you are prescribed strong opioid analgesia for pain, you will be given an appointment to see a pain nurse specialist before your operation.

You will also be assessed for your consent to the operation. Your consultant or a nurse will explain the procedure and the risks and benefits that will come from having the operation. If in agreement then you will be asked to sign a consent form.

You will be invited to attend an education group in the Therapy Department. The therapist will discuss exercises, mobility and what to expect from the operation and your recovery.

You will be measured for elbow crutches ready to become familiar with and practice your walking prior to your operation.

Patients who attend the pre-operative class feel more prepared for surgery. It is likely that your outcome after the operation will be improved if you started your exercises before the surgery and have improved your diet and managed your weight. Attending this group will also help to reduce your length of stay in hospital after your operation.

Please bring your elbow crutches into hospital with you on the day of your surgery.

Occupational Therapy

Prior to your operation an occupational therapist will complete an assessment to determine whether any equipment will be needed to make your recovery at home easier. This equipment will normally be ordered for you prior to having your surgery; however, any problems can also be addressed on the ward following the surgery. The occupational therapists will assess whether you need additional help at home with personal care and domestic tasks.

Any recommendations and referrals can be made on the ward. We do recommend you try and find assistance from family or friends. You may have done so already, but please bring the furniture height measurements with you so appropriate equipment can be ordered.

Please consider how you think you will manage after your operation:

- **Can you ask family and friends to support you in the short term?**
- **Will you need to prepare meals or have help preparing meals?**
- **Can you prepare meals in advance to keep in the freezer for after your operation?**
- **You will not be able to carry anything whilst using your walking aids so consider alternatives and how you are going to manage. You can discuss any concerns with the occupational therapy team during your telephone consultation or on the ward.**

Before your operation

You will need to book an appointment at your GP surgery with a practice nurse to have your clips removed. **This will need to be booked for 14 days after the day of your operation.**

If you feel that you are suffering from any kind of infection (for example urine, dental or stomach infection) please make the orthopaedic team aware before the operation.

We encourage all patients to use this website to gain more understanding around the procedure including consent and different types of anaesthetic. You will need to register for free to access the content which can be accessed via this link:

<https://www.consentplus.com/>

Hospital stay

After your operation you will be admitted to an orthopaedic ward at King's Mill Hospital – ward 21. It is likely that you will need to stay in hospital for one to three days after your operation, but this will vary depending on your progress.

What to bring

You will want to pack an overnight bag to bring into hospital with you. This should include spare clothes and pyjamas, wash bag, suitable supportive footwear and something to do such as a book to read or an electronic device. You may wish to bring your own towel for showering.

You do not need to bring bedding with you as this will be provided on the ward. **Please bring your usual medications with you.**

Admission day

On the day of your operation you will arrive at the admission lounge. You may wish to bring something to read or occupy yourself with while waiting. You will have to stop eating six hours before your operation to prepare for the anaesthetic and procedure. You must stop drinking water or clear fluids (diluted squash, cordial, black tea or coffee) two hours before the operation.

When you are admitted to the ward you will be seen by the anaesthetist and medical professionals who will discuss your anaesthetic, post-operative pain relief and your overall plan for surgery. The leg requiring surgery will be marked.

Members of the team involved in your care will include:

- Doctors
- Anaesthetists
- Nurses
- Healthcare assistants
- Physiotherapists
- Occupational therapists
- Pharmacists.

Anaesthetic

You may be fitted with a compression stocking on your un-operated leg before you go for your operation. Another stocking may be fitted onto your operated leg after your operation. These are called TED stockings and information regarding these can be found later in the booklet. Your anaesthetic procedure will be discussed with you before your operation. The type that you have will depend on many factors such as previous experiences, other conditions you may have and the anaesthetist's recommendations.

Spinal anaesthetic

You will usually be offered a spinal anaesthetic, which could be with or without sedation. The procedure involves a dose of local anaesthetic injected into your lower back near the nerves in your spine. This is considered very effective and will temporarily numb your body from the waist down. You will not feel anything during the operation other than some movement, but you will still be conscious.

The advantages of a spinal anaesthetic compared to a general anaesthetic are that you are likely to feel less sick or drowsy after the operation and you can usually eat and drink sooner. Therefore you may feel up to mobilising on your new joint sooner. Another advantage of a spinal anaesthetic is that it is likely you will not need a lot of strong pain relief after the operation as you will still have the benefits of the analgesia. You will also be in control of your own breathing after the operation, making you feel better quicker.

Sedation

Sedation can be used at the same time as a spinal anaesthetic, which can make you feel more relaxed. It may be given as light or deep sedation. If required, this will be adjusted to your personal needs which will be discussed with your anaesthetist.

Epidural

An epidural may be offered if the anaesthetist thinks the operation may last for longer than two hours, or you will need more long-lasting pain relief after your surgery. The injection is similar to a spinal injection but a fine plastic tube is inserted into your back, which can allow for more anaesthetic to be given as required.

General anaesthetic

Having a general anaesthetic will make you unconscious for the surgery so you won't feel anything, but this is completed in a controlled way, and you will be constantly observed. You will usually receive anaesthetic drugs, oxygen to breathe and you may need medication to help relax your muscles. You will need a breathing tube in your throat for the operation. The advantages are that you will be unconscious throughout the procedure. The disadvantage includes needing extra pain relief after the operation, which can make some people feel unwell.

The operation

The operation is likely to take about one and a half hours. Once your operation is complete you will be taken through to the recovery ward.

Recovery

In the recovery ward you will be monitored by a nurse as you begin to come round from the anaesthetic. You may feel slightly confused or drowsy as you come round but this is normal as the anaesthetic wears off. Your nurse will be monitoring your vital signs (pulse, oxygen, checking the wound and assessing your pain) and ensuring you are comfortable.

Once you are stable and the doctors and nurses are happy with how you are then you will be taken back to the orthopaedic ward to continue your care. On the way back to the ward you will have an x-ray. The staff on the ward will make sure that your pain is well controlled and will assist with your care as needed. They will continue monitoring your temperature, pulse rate, blood pressure, bladder and bowel function and the feeling in your legs after the anaesthetic.

After your operation (post-operative)

You will be encouraged to sit up in bed, eat and drink, move your feet and begin your physiotherapy exercises. You may be mobilised on this day if it is safe, appropriate and you are well enough to do so.

You will be encouraged to be as independent as possible. We advise that you try to get dressed in your own clothes (loose and easy fitting along with supportive slippers or shoes). The staff will be able to assist you where needed but you will be encouraged to do as much by yourself as possible.

A physiotherapist will go through your bed exercises, which you will be expected to carry out on the ward at least six times a day. They will also assist you to get out of bed for the first time and help you walk with your elbow crutches. In addition, it is likely that you will be seen by an occupational therapist. You may complete a stair assessment and if you are feeling well enough you may be able to go home. Continue the bed exercises each day as this will help you to achieve a good outcome following surgery. You will still be encouraged to be independent, and you may complete a stair assessment if you haven't already done so.

Post-operative complications

There is the possibility of developing post-operative complications as mentioned previously. Signs and symptoms to look out for include:

- Severe pain when touching an area of skin, especially the calf area.
- Extreme swelling of the whole leg, not just the hip, especially in the calf.
- Skin that is hot to touch, very red and looks tight or stretched.
- Wounds leaking discharge that may look dirty, yellow in colour or pus filled.
- Chest pain or shortness of breath.

If you experience any of these symptoms or are concerned then you should seek medical advice as soon as possible to ensure the right treatment is started and to avoid any further complications.

In order to reduce the risk of post-operative complications, staff will help you to mobilise as soon as your condition allows, you may be advised to wear stockings and will be given blood thinning medication.

Discharge home

Before being discharged home you must be fully stable with your medical checks and have gained full sensation back in your legs. Staff will be monitoring you throughout your stay in hospital to ensure that your pain is under control, you can walk safely and there are no signs of infection before you go home.

Stockings may be provided to reduce the risk of deep vein thrombosis (DVT), which is the formation of one or more blood clots. You will be informed by medical staff if and for how long you may need to wear these for. In some cases you will only need to wear them while in hospital, in others you may be expected to wear the stockings for six weeks and only take them off for washing. If you feel that your stockings are digging into your leg or are too small, please contact the orthopaedic ward for advice.

When you have been discharged from hospital it is important to follow the advice given, monitor your pain levels and be sensible with the amount of walking you are doing. In the first 6 weeks we advise you do not stand still for periods longer than two minutes. We advise that you potter around the house, little and often, gradually building up the distance you walk, but we do not expect you to be going for long walks.

If you have been stood for too long or have walked too far, you may get an increase in heat and swelling at the hip or in the leg, not necessarily at the time, but more commonly that evening or overnight. Some patients experience an increase in their ache and a restless, unsettled feeling. This is an indication that you are on your feet too much. However, when resting, you must try to do circulatory exercises (padding feet) to compensate for not walking as normal.

Follow up

As previously mentioned, once you know your operation date you will need to book an appointment with your GP surgery to see a practice nurse. This should be for 14 days after your surgery to have your wound checked and your clips removed.

You will be informed of when your consultant will follow you up; this is usually after about six weeks.

Home advice

If you have any specific needs or require extra help at home, this should be organised prior to your operation. On the ward the staff will help to show you how best to get yourself washed, dressed and in and out of bed. If necessary, equipment will have been organised by occupational therapy in order to help you manage at home. Your new artificial hip will feel very different to your hip before the surgery. You may have a sensation of heaviness, stiffness or clicking noises, which are likely to settle as you recover, but the hip may never feel as your own.

Frequent patient concerns

Wound

It is important to monitor your wound to check for signs of infection such as weeping or excessive bleeding after your operation. To close the wound, clips are used to hold the skin together. These are usually taken out two weeks after the operation by your GP practice nurse. **You will need to organise this appointment.**

There are dissolvable stitches under the skin to help to repair the wound, which should dissolve within six to eight weeks after your operation. You may notice a small piece of thread protruding through the wound, which can be normal. Do not pull at it, it should dissolve and come away. At times the area at either end of the wound can become pink in colour which can be normal. If it becomes very red or you notice any pus coming from this area you will need to contact your GP and you may require antibiotics.

Bruising

This is normal and should fade within 6-12 weeks after your operation. Bruising can be extensive and go down towards your knee. You may also have a bruised feeling in your thigh where the tourniquet was applied during surgery.

Pain

Some pain after a total hip replacement is considered normal; you have had major surgery and your body will be responding to the traumatic invasion. Many patients are concerned about an on-going pain/ache weeks and months after the operation. Only occasionally do we have patients that feel the benefit of the new joint immediately. The procedure can be fairly painful if your body is used to pain killers. Most pain killers will help you manage rather than abolish your pain.

In the first few weeks after surgery we are very keen that you have adequate pain control to allow you to complete the exercises we have given you. You will be prescribed medication on the ward. In order to be able to do your exercises and begin your rehabilitation, you will need to manage your pain levels appropriately. If your pain is not under control then you will have difficulty moving the hip and mobilising, which can cause you to develop stiffness and weakness, slowing down your recovery process.

You may also get pain in the knees and ankles; normally this is due to additional stresses put on the muscles and ligaments and is a short term discomfort. During your stay you will be provided with pain relief. We advise you inform the nursing staff when you have pain, as keeping on top of your pain relief will ease your recovery and reduce your time in hospital. Although you may experience pain during walking, it is important to maximise your efforts to increase strength and your walking pattern. If you are worried about your pain levels once home, please contact your GP to discuss this.

Swelling and bruising

Swelling and bruising is normal post-surgery. The amount you experience is individual to you. It can be isolated to the hip or travel as far as your ankle. To reduce swelling, we advise you keep moving and completing your exercises. You can also elevate the legs on the bed.

Temperature

Your hip may feel warm after the operation - blood flows to the area for healing which causes the warmth. If your leg becomes **very hot** then you may need to consider what has caused this. Extra warmth can be a sign of infection but it more commonly occurs if you have been on your feet too long, tried to walk too far or you have been stood in one position for a period of time. This may have aggravated and inflamed your hip; swelling and an increase in ache or pain is the response. If this is the case, try to balance activity on your feet with rest.

Numbness

Numbness around the hip is due to small superficial nerves being disrupted during surgery. The patch usually gets smaller but there may be a permanent small area of numbness.

Ice

Using ice is another useful way of reducing swelling. Anything from a purpose made ice pack to a frozen bag of peas will work; just make sure you use a tea towel to protect your skin. We recommend using ice for no more than 20 minutes at a time. Check your skin every five minutes; it should be pink in colour. Leave an hour between each ice session.

Sleep

To stick to the hip precautions we recommend you sleep on your back for the first 12 weeks. If this is uncomfortable you can sleep on your non-operated side with pillows in between your legs so your leg doesn't cross over. After the 12 week period you can lie on your operated side as pain allows with pillows between your knees to support the operated hip.

Dislocation

You should adhere to the hip precautions for a minimum of 12 weeks. Following this you can lead a normal life. Be aware not to force your hip past 90 degrees, as your range may be reduced. Try to be aware of environmental risks like wet floors and uneven ground to reduce falls.

Work

You can normally return to work after six weeks. Please discuss with your consultant if you have a manual job or your job involves a lot of driving.

Driving

You can drive after six weeks. Please raise concerns with your consultant.

Public transport

On a plane, coach or bus try to make sure you have legroom for comfort.

No long haul flights (over four hours) should be planned in the first three months. Most hip replacement joints will be made with stainless steel or cobalt chrome and therefore may set alarms off in security. If this is the case you will need to explain the situation to the security staff.

Hip precautions

To reduce the risk of dislocation, follow the precautions below for a period of at least 12 weeks.

1. Do not exceed a 90 degrees bend at the hip:

- Avoid picking things up off the floor. Use a tool like a helping hand.
- Avoid leaning forward when sitting in a chair. Avoid low chairs.
- Avoid reaching past your knees when trying to put on socks or shoes.



2. Do not cross your operated leg across the midline of your body:

- Avoid crossing legs in lying, sitting or standing. You can avoid this by putting a pillow between your legs when sleeping.



3. Do not twist on your operated leg:

- Avoid twisting your leg inwards or outwards when standing, sitting and lying.
- When mobilising ensure you step round rather than twisting.



Mobility

Your doctor or physiotherapist will let you know how much weight you will be allowed to put through the hip. It is likely that you were provided with crutches in the education group, but otherwise you will be given a walking aid on the ward, which is usually a pair of crutches or a zimmer frame. You will be shown how to use these on the ward and the staff will ensure you are safe before going home

Managing the stairs/steps

A physiotherapist will normally practice stairs or steps with you if necessary. Dependant on how many hand rails you have, you will normally use either one or two crutches to help you on the stairs.



Walking up the stairs:

- Stand close to the stairs with one hand on the handrail and the other holding the crutches.
- First take a step up with your unoperated leg.
- Then take a step up with your operated leg.
- Bring your crutch up on to the step.

Walking down the stairs:

- Hold on to the handrail with one hand and crutches with the other.
- First put your crutch down on to the step below.
- Then take a step down with your operated leg first.
- Take a step down with your unoperated leg to meet your operated leg.

Post-operative exercises following your total hip replacement

During the weeks following your hip surgery it is important that you strengthen the muscles around your hip. We have put together a series of exercises you can complete at home that will work your glute and leg muscles.

We recommend you do these little and often to aid your recovery. At first they may be difficult and may cause discomfort. Do not cause yourself pain when completing the exercises, but do expect some discomfort to occur. It is best to gradually build up your exercises over time to challenge the muscles progressively.



Ankle pumps:

- Lying on your back or sitting.
- 'Pump' your ankle by moving your ankle backwards and forwards.
- Repeat 10-20 times.

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Week 1																					
Week 2																					
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Straight leg raise:

- Lying on your back.
- Tighten your thigh muscle and straighten the knee on your operated side.
- Lift your leg 10-15 cm off the bed.
- Hold for 5 seconds and then relax.
- Lower your leg back down to the floor.
- Repeat 10 times.

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Knee bending:

- Sat in a chair, keep your foot on the floor.
- Slide your foot back allowing your knee to bend.
- Hold for a few seconds and then relax.
- Repeat 5-10 times.

Week No.	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun
Week 1							
Week 2							
Week 3							
Week 4							
Week 5							
Week 6							



Knee straightening:

- Sit in a chair, straighten your knee out.
- Pull your toes up towards you and squeeze your thigh muscle.
- Hold for 3 seconds, relax.

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Week 1														
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Standing hip flexion:

- In standing, make sure you have a work surface or chair nearby for support to hold on to.
- Lift your knee and aim to get your hip flexed to a maximum of 90 degrees.
- Hold for 3-5 seconds and lower.
- Repeat 10 times.

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Standing hip abduction:

- In standing, make sure you have a work surface or chair nearby for support to hold on to.
- Lift your leg sideways and bring it back keeping your trunk straight throughout the exercise.
- Repeat 10 times.

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Standing hip extension:

- In standing, make sure you have a work surface or chair nearby for support to hold on to.
- Bring your leg backwards keeping your knee straight. Do not lean forwards during the exercise, try to remain upright.
- Repeat 10 times.

Week No.	Mon			Tues			Wed			Thur			Fri			Sat			Sun		
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Chair squat:

- Stand behind a chair and support yourself with both hands.
- Slowly bend your hips and knees, trying to push your bottom back. Your knees should be above your toes. Do not let your knees turn in or out during the movement. Be aware you should not exceed a 90 degree bend at the hip.
- Repeat 10 times.

Week No.	Mon			Tues			Wed			Thur			Fri			Sat			Sun		
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Week 6																					

Guidelines and expectations after your operation

The following information are guidelines only. Each patient is an individual and therefore everyone has a different recovery process. Some individuals may reach the targets below with ease, whilst others may take longer than the stated timeframe or may never be able to achieve them.

Two to three weeks after your operation

At this point you should be continuing with the exercises shown in hospital by the physiotherapists. You should be starting to feel more confident about mobilising around your home and you may have started mobilising outside with crutches. When mobilising we recommend trying to increase the distance you mobilise daily, ensuring you remain comfortable over these distances. When inside, you may feel ready to try walking around your home with just one crutch held on the opposite side to your replacement.

You may feel the benefit of massaging your scar once the clips have been removed or your scar has healed. Using moisturising creams will make massaging the area easier, and over time your scar should feel less sensitive.

Three to four weeks after your operation

Continue to increase your walking distance outside alongside your exercises. By this point it is not out of the ordinary to be walking up to a mile a day. Ensure the distance you are walking does not lead to discomfort.

Four to six weeks after your operation

During this period you may have further increased your confidence walking. If you are able to walk without a limp you may be managing to walk without a walking aid, or you may be using a single stick. Again, each individual heals at different timeframes, so do not be disappointed if you have not progressed to this level yet.

If you have access to a static bike, you may be able to start using this now. It is recommended that you set the seat height higher than normal to allow a more comfortable experience. You may need to rock the pedals forwards and backwards to build up to a full revolution, mainly due to comfort at the hip. Starting with zero resistance, gradually build up the time tolerated on the bike, starting with 5 minutes.

Once your wound has fully healed you will be able to return to the swimming pool. You are not able to start breast stroke until six weeks after your operation. Build up your tolerance to exercise in the water gradually. You may find that the standing exercises given to you by the physiotherapist in the hospital is a good place to start.

Depending on your consultant's advice, you may be able to start driving if you have an automatic car. Travelling as a passenger should now be more comfortable in comparison to the first few weeks after your operation.

Six to eight weeks after your operation

At this point you should be managing to walk inside and outside without walking aids. You should also be feeling more confident walking outside, whilst you will most likely have further increased the distance you are able to walk.

You may feel you can now return to work if your job is sedentary, travelling permitted.

You should be able to now drive a manual car comfortable if you are not already doing so.

Consultant advice should be followed.

It is no longer necessary to avoid crossing your legs.

We recommend that those wanting to have a bath rather than shower should attempt getting in and out of the bath fully clothed with no water in the bath first to assess how they manage.

Three to six months after your operation

The majority of your swelling should now have resolved, however, it is not uncommon for swelling to remain up to 12 months after surgery. You should continue with the exercises you find most beneficial to further strengthen your hip muscles.

Hobbies such as golf, road cycling, dancing, and light gardening can now be returned to. You may also feel up to returning to light physical work.

Six months after your operation

With the exception of high impact sports, you will now have hopefully returned back to full activities. Any stiffness and swelling should now have resolved. You may still have some weakness at the hip muscles; however, these will strengthen with continued exercises and general return to full activities.

One year after your operation

You should now be fully recovered and carrying out your activities of daily living without any problems.

Contact details:

- King's Mill Hospital - telephone: 01623 622515
- Newark Hospital - telephone: 01636 681681
- King's Mill Orthopaedic Ward - extension 2414 (Monday to Sunday, 24 hours)
- King's Mill Physiotherapy Outpatients - extension 3221 (Monday to Friday, 8am-5pm)
- Newark Physiotherapy Outpatients - extension 5885 (Monday to Friday, 8am-5pm).

Further sources of information

NHS Choices: www.nhs.uk/conditions

Our website: www.sfh-tr.nhs.uk

Arthritis Research UK: www.arthritisresearchuk.org

Patient Experience Team (PET)

PET is available to help with any of your compliments, concerns or complaints, and will ensure a prompt and efficient service:

King's Mill Hospital: 01623 672222

Newark Hospital: 01636 685692

Email: sfh-tr.PET@nhs.net

If you would like this information in an alternative format, for example large print or easy read, or if you need help with communicating with us, for example because you use British Sign Language, please let us know. You can call the Patient Experience Team on 01623 672222 or email sfh-tr.PET@nhs.net.

This document is intended for information purposes only and should not replace advice that your relevant health profession would give you. External websites may be referred to in specific cases. Any external websites are provided for your information and convenience. We cannot accept responsibility for the information found on them. If you require a full list of references (if relevant) for this leaflet, please email sfh-tr.patientinformation@nhs.net or telephone 01623 622515, extension 6927.

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