

Work

- Consider an appointment with your company's occupational health department before returning to work.
- If you do a physical job, discuss with your consultant as to when you will be able to return to work.

If you find you need extra help at home, please consider the following options:

- Speak to your GP, or NHS 111 out of hours
- Contact your local social services

Social Services

Reading	0118 937 3747
Wokingham	0118 974 6000
West Berkshire	01635 503050
Bracknell	01344 352000
South Oxon	0345 050 7666

Other useful contacts

Wiltshire Farm Foods 0800 066 2710
Oakhouse Foods 0845 643 2009

Please ask the Occupational Therapist if you have any questions about this leaflet.

Emergency Department
Occupational Therapy Team
0118 322 7015



Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust
London Road
Reading RG1 5AN
Telephone 0118 322 5111
www.royalberkshire.nhs.uk

ED Occupational Therapy Team, July 2018
Review due: July 2020

Managing everyday activities one- handed

Information for patients
attending the Emergency
Department (A&E)

The aim of this leaflet is to provide general advice, hints and tips on how to manage with daily life at home while you are not able to use one arm / hand due to your fracture or injury.

Personal care

Showering

- Make sure you use slip-resistant mats in the bathroom.
- Try using a long-handled sponge and use a jug to pour water over yourself to rinse.
- Consider a seat in the shower – shower stools are available for purchase/loan privately.
- Alternatively, meet your hygiene needs through a strip wash.

Dressing

- Sit down to dress - you may feel slightly off-balance with one arm out of use.
- Dress affected limb first; undress the opposite way.

- Loose-fitting cardigans/shirts will be easier to put on/take off than tight-fitting items.
- Bra – consider using a clothes peg to clip to bra together while you fasten it.

Meal preparation

Preparing food

- Consider buying prepared / chopped fruit and vegetables in the short term.
- Consider using an electric tin opener or buy ring-pull tins.
- Use scissors to cut small vegetables and other foods or use a food processor
- “Spike boards” (to hold food in place while you chop/slice etc) are available through organisations such as the Red Cross.

Cooking

- Consider that often we pick up saucepans with two hands, as they can be quite heavy - you may want to split what you are cooking into two pans to lighten the load.

- Fill saucepans or the kettle with a jug instead of lifting the whole item.
- Use a metal sieve or a cooking basket placed in the top of a saucepan to cook vegetables.
- Be aware of lifting things in and out of the oven one handed - they will be heavy and hot.

Shopping

- Consider using online/telephone shopping services for a period of time and getting items delivered to your door.
- Consider using ready meal delivery services for a period of time, such as Wiltshire Farm Foods or Oakhouse Foods. These services can also deliver other shopping items.

Household tasks

- Consider using online shopping for a period of time and getting items delivered to your door.
- Pet feeding – consider using sachets rather than tins as these may be easier to open.