

Patient information

What to Expect on Your First Visit to the Prosthetic and Wheelchair Centre

Therapies

Introduction

This leaflet explains what will happen now that you have been referred to the Prosthetic and Wheelchair Centre for assessment to determine your ability to use an artificial limb (prosthesis).

How do I get there?

If you require ambulance transport, please arrange via 0800 032 3240.

Please be aware that morning ambulances can pick you up anytime from 08.30 am regardless of your appointment time.

You may find it more convenient if a relative or friend can bring you as the Ambulance Service is very busy and delays are inevitable.

There is limited accessible parking outside the Centre.

What shall I bring with me?

- A list of your medication
- Any medication you may need during your visit (including ambulance waiting time if appropriate)
- **Snacks/lunch particularly if you have diabetes**
- A list of questions you may wish to discuss

Who will I see on my first visit to the centre?

Your appointment is likely to last between three and four hours, as you may be assessed by several members of the multi-disciplinary team (MDT).

- The **Consultant's** role is to assess your general health and its effect on your ability to use a limb

- If you have a medical condition such as a severe heart problem, stroke, arthritis or dementia it may mean that you are not physically strong enough to use an artificial limb
- The **Nurse** will record some simple observations, height, weight, blood pressure etc They will also check personal details e.g. name, address, date of birth and ethnic origin
- The **Physiotherapist** will assess your physical capabilities and your ability to perform certain tasks
- The **Prosthetist** (or limb fitter) will take some initial measurements and assess whether your residual limb is suitable for limb fitting
- The **Podiatrist** (if applicable) will assess and arrange follow up care of your remaining limb
- The **Clinical Psychologist** will give you an opportunity to talk about the emotional impact of having an amputation
- The **Occupational Therapist** will arrange to see patients who have had upper limb amputations to assess their ability to manage daily living skills

What happens next?

- After you have seen the different members of the team, they will meet to discuss their findings. Using all the information gathered they will recommend an appropriate treatment plan for you
- The Consultant or another member of the team will discuss this plan with you and you will be given an opportunity to ask questions

Feedback

Your feedback is important to us and helps us influence care in the future.

Following your discharge from hospital or attendance at your outpatient appointment you will receive a text asking if you would recommend our service to others. Please take the time to text back, you will not be charged for the text and can opt out at any point. Your co-operation is greatly appreciated.

Further information

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All Trust approved information is available on request in alternative formats, including other languages, easy read, large print, audio, Braille, moon and electronically.

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