



Toe fractures: discharge advice

You have been diagnosed with a toe fracture. This leaflet explains what that is and how to best care for your foot while it heals.

- You have fractured one or more toe bones in your foot.
- These fractures almost always heal well with time and use – no specific treatment is required and therefore routine follow-up is not necessary.
- The fracture has occurred in a part of the bone that normally heals well without problems.
- The initial pain, tenderness and swelling you are experiencing in the toe(s) should gradually settle over a period six to twelve weeks.
- During this time, you may find walking on the foot painful and it may initially help to walk on your heel.
- You may be provided with a support for the foot in the form of either a strap and / or a removable orthopaedic Velcro shoe, depending on the type of injury. If required, you will also be provided with crutches. See overleaf for exercises.
- You may walk on the foot as much as pain allows and you should gradually discard the support over 3-5 weeks as the pain settles.
- Most injuries heal without any problems – however, it may take six to twelve months for your symptoms to settle completely.
- Occasionally, the fracture may fail to heal and continue to be severely painful even after three months. A surgical procedure may then be needed at this stage to help heal the fracture.
- If you are still experiencing severe significant symptoms after three months, please contact the Virtual Fracture Clinic helpline as listed below for further advice.



If you have any worries or concerns following discharge from hospital, please contact: **Fracture Clinic on 0118 322 6567 (12-5pm, Monday to Friday) or mobile: 07554 330 369.**

To find out more about our Trust visit www.royalberkshire.nhs.uk

Please ask if you need this information in another language or format.

RBFT Orthopaedic Unit, January 2024. Next review due: January 2026

Foot injury exercises

Remember:

- Remove brace / splint before exercising.
- Exercise as the pain allows – **do not continue if it is too painful!**
- Complete 10 of each exercise.
- As the exercises become easier, build up to completing four times a day.

1. Sit with your injured leg crossed over your good one, point the toes on your affected leg downwards and then pull them up slowly.
2. Sit with your injured leg crossed over your good one, move the sole of the foot from side to side.
3. Sit with your injured leg crossed over your good one, circle your foot, making as big a circle as possible. Repeat in opposite direction.
4. With your feet flat on the floor, sit on a chair or stand up, stretch your feet out as much as possible. Then draw your toes in to make your foot as short as possible.
5. Stand supported, rise up onto tip-toes, then lower yourself slowly.



If your foot swells, sit with your foot supported so that it is higher than your hip, at least twice a day for half an hour. Massaging the area, sweeping the swelling towards and up the calf may also help. To overcome stiffness in your foot, do the exercises. Your foot may swell from time to time for up to one year.