

Scaphoid (wrist) injury

This advice is for patients with an injury/suspected fracture of the scaphoid (wrist) bone and explains what happens next.

About scaphoid injuries

The scaphoid bone is one of the eight small bones in your wrist.

It can be fractured (broken) during a fall or if your hand is forcibly pushed backwards.

An injury to the scaphoid bone causes pain and swelling, mainly on the thumb side of your wrist.

The Emergency Department doctor or advanced practitioner who examined you in A&E today suspects that you may have injured your scaphoid bone.

We know that a fracture (break) of the scaphoid is sometimes not visible on an X-ray taken in the first few days after the injury. For this reason, you will be treated as if you have a fracture today even if it is not identified on your X-ray. Your injury will normally be supported in a removable Velcro wrist splint.

What happens next?

You will be referred to the Virtual Fracture Clinic, where your X-ray will be reviewed by an orthopaedic consultant the next working day. Following this review, you will be phoned and either offered a follow up appointment, or a second x-ray will be arranged for you.

This second X-ray will be 10-14 days after your injury. This may confirm or rule out a fracture because bone healing should now be visible on the X-ray. You will not be seen in the Fracture Clinic after this X-ray; you will be phoned again the next working day and told the results and given advice about the future care of your injury.

Nurses from the Virtual Fracture Clinic are available to contact by telephone – Fracture Clinic on 0118 322 6567 or mobile number: 07554 330 369 (12pm – 5pm Monday to Friday). While the clinic is running, we are unable to take calls but the answerphone is in use so please leave a message – we will respond to all messages left.

Friends and Family Test

Whatever your experience you can give feedback by answering the Friends & Family test question – ‘Overall, how was your experience of our service?’ – by going online www.royalberkshire.nhs.uk/get-in-touch/friends-and-family-survey.htm.

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

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

Emergency Department, January 2023.

Next review due: January 2025.