



You have a

## Soft tissue shoulder injury

This is a sprain to your shoulder.

### Healing:

It normally takes six weeks to heal, but symptoms can continue for three months.

### Pain, Swelling and Pins and Needles:

Your shoulder may be swollen and you will have some pain. Take pain medication as prescribed. You can use an ice pack or bag of frozen peas wrapped in a damp towel to help with your pain. Put this on your shoulder for up to 15 minutes every few hours. Make sure the ice is not in direct contact with your skin.



### Wearing your sling:

Your sling can be worn for comfort. You can take it off to wash, dress and exercise. It does not need to be worn at night. You should stop using your sling as soon as possible.



### Exercise and activity:

It is important to keep your shoulder moving to prevent stiffness. You can return to activity when you feel ready. Start with light tasks and be guided by your pain.

Regular exercise will prevent stiffness and improve your movement. You will find pictures and instructions for your exercises below. Start with Stage 1 Exercises. As soon as you feel ready you can progress to the next stages.

### Follow up:

We are expecting your injury to get better with time and this care plan. However, if you have significant pain or do not achieve full movement six weeks after your injury then please contact us.

### Contact us

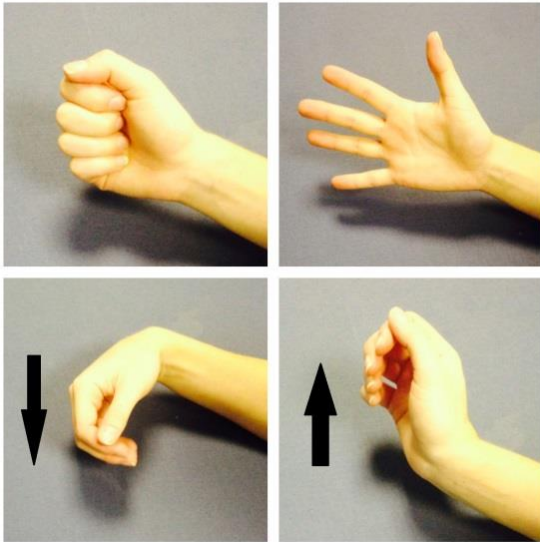
If you have any questions, are concerned about your symptoms or have pain other than at your shoulder please contact us.



## Stage 1 Exercises

Hand, wrist and elbow exercises are only needed while you are wearing a sling. You can stop these once they become easy and you have full movement. Try to do these exercises four to five times a day. Repeat each exercise 10 times.

### Hand, wrist and elbow exercises:



1. Open and close your hand. Next, move your wrist up and down. Repeat 10 times
2. After a few days, hold a soft ball or rolled up socks. Squeeze the ball and hold for five seconds. Repeat five times.

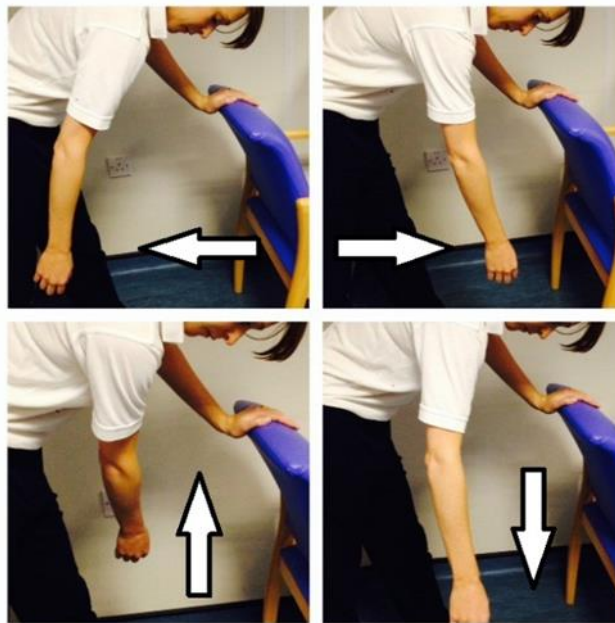


3. Bend and straighten your elbow. Repeat 10 times.
4. Bend your elbow to a right angle. Slowly turn your palm up to the ceiling and down to the ground. Repeat 10 times.



**Posture Exercise:**

Bring your shoulders back and gently squeeze your shoulder blades together. Hold for 20-30 seconds. Repeat five times.

**Shoulder Pendulum Exercise:**

Stand next to a firm surface. Support yourself with your un-injured arm and lean forwards. Let your injured arm relax and hang down to the ground.

Gently swing your arm, making a small movement. Try to do this forward and backward, side to side and in small circles.

Aim to do this for one to two minutes in total. You do not need to push into pain. Remember to keep your arm relaxed.



## Stage 2 Exercises

You can start these exercises as soon as you are able to. Try to do these exercises four to five times a day. Repeat each exercise 10 times.

### Exercise 1 - Active Assisted Flexion

Use your other hand to lift your injured arm up in front of you, as shown in these pictures.



### Exercise 2 - Active Assisted External Rotation

Keep the elbow of your injured arm tucked into your side and your elbow bent. Hold onto a stick, umbrella or something similar.

Use your good arm to push your injured hand outwards. Remember to keep your elbow tucked in.

If you don't have a stick, hold your injured arm at the wrist, guide it outwards with your good hand.



## Stage 3 Exercises

You can start these exercises as soon as you are able to do Stage 2 Exercises comfortably. Try to do these exercises 4-5 times a day. Repeat each exercise 10 times.

### Exercise 1 - Active Flexion

Lift your arm forwards in front of you. Try to raise the arm as high as you can. You do not need to push into pain. If this is too difficult, try the same movement with a bent elbow.



### Exercise 2 - Active Abduction

With your palm facing forwards, move your arm out to the side in a big arc. Try to raise the arm as high as you can. You do not need to push into pain. If this is too difficult, try the same movement with a bent elbow.





### Exercise 3 - Active External Rotation

Start with your elbow bent by your side. Move your forearm out to the side, keeping your elbow bent and near your waist.



### Frequently Asked Questions

#### When can I start driving?

You can return to driving when:

- You are no longer using a sling,
- You can move comfortably and
- You can control the vehicle safely.

Always test your ability to drive in a safe environment first.

#### How can I get a certificate for work?

You can get a fitness for work statement from your GP.

#### How do I contact the Virtual Fracture Clinic?

Call 020 7288 3310

### Patient advice and liaison service (PALS)

If you have a compliment, complaint or concern please contact our PALS team on 020 7288 5551 or [whh-tr.pals@nhs.net](mailto:whh-tr.pals@nhs.net)

If you need a large print, audio or translated copy of this leaflet please email [whh-tr.patient-information@nhs.net](mailto:whh-tr.patient-information@nhs.net). We will try our best to meet your needs.

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