

Discharge Advice:

Hand (Fifth Metacarpal) Fracture

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**Trauma and Orthopaedics**

**Patient Information Leaflet**

- You have a minor break near the knuckle and it will usually settle in three weeks.
- It may take six weeks or longer before your hand returns to normal.
- The finger strapping may help the pain and allow early movement.
- Because the break can be close to the joint you must move your hand as soon as possible even if this means overcoming the discomfort.
- After one week remove the strapping.
- Use your hand as normally as possible. This will not cause further damage but heavy lifting may be sore for six or eight weeks.
- Hand grip is generally very good after this type of injury.
- As the bone heals a lump will form at the break site and the knuckle will not be as prominent.
- There will be some shortening expected as a consequence of the injury.



Should you have any queries or concerns following discharge from hospital, please contact:

**Emergency Department, Royal Lancaster Infirmary: 01524 583100**

## Leaflet Details

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## **Other formats**

If you would like to receive this information in an alternative format, then please contact : 01539 795497.

## **Travelling to our hospitals**

For the best way to plan your journey visit our website:  
<http://www.UHMB.nhs.uk/> or contact Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS): 01539 795497.

## **Useful Contact Details**

NHS 111 (for 24 hour urgent health advice): telephone 111

## **Your Information**

If you would like to know how we use, share, disclose and secure your information and your rights of access to the information we hold about you, visit the Trust's website: <http://www.UHMB.nhs.uk/> or contact Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) on 01539 795497.

## **Evidence**

Details of the evidence used in writing this leaflet are available on request from: Patient Information Officer at 01524 512476.

With thanks to Glasgow Royal for their kind permission to use text and image from their leaflet '5th Metacarpal Fracture'.

## **Feedback**

We appreciate and encourage feedback. If you need advice or are concerned about any aspect of care or treatment, please speak to a member of staff or contact PALS on 01539 795497.

UHMBT is a no smoking Trust. Smoking is not permitted on any of the hospital sites. You can contact the NHS North Lancashire Stop Smoking services on the number below:

NHS Quit Squad - **0800 328 6297**

If you live in Cumbria, please call **0300 013 3000** to find a local pharmacy who are offers 1-2-1 support and nicotine replacement therapy.

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