

Care of your breast prosthesis

Breast Care Centre
Information for patients

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Your prosthesis

You now have your silicone breast prosthesis. We hope that you are completely satisfied with your prosthesis, but if you are unhappy with it in any way, you will need to contact the prosthetic fitting service within **28 days** of the date of issue.

We can only replace your prosthesis after this 28 day period for the following reasons:

- weight loss or gain resulting in a change in bra size.
- lymphoedema or other medical condition that may require a lightweight prosthesis to be worn.
- the prosthesis is found to have a manufacturing fault (for example, bubbling or splitting on the back of the prosthesis). It is important to keep the box as, if a manufacturing fault occurs within **two or three years**, the prosthesis can only be replaced if it is returned in its original box.

If you are an NHS patient you are entitled to one permanent prosthesis free of charge. A charge will apply if:

- you wish to change your prosthesis after **28 days** from issue date.
- it is damaged, and this damage is not due to a manufacturing fault.
- you wish to have more than one prosthesis.

Caring for your prosthesis

All breast prostheses are guaranteed for **two or three years** against manufacturing faults, depending on which company supplied the prosthesis. However, by following the simple care instructions supplied with your prosthesis, it could last you many more years.

Treat the prosthesis as you would your own skin, by washing it daily in warm, soapy water to remove dirt and residue from oils, body lotions or perfume.

**Health information and support is available at www.nhs.uk
or call 111 for non-emergency medical advice**

Visit www.leicestershospitals.nhs.uk for maps and information about visiting Leicester's Hospitals
To give feedback about this information sheet, contact InformationForPatients@uhl-tr.nhs.uk

Caring for your prosthesis (continued)

Sharp objects, such as animal claws, brooches or garden shrubs, could puncture your prosthesis, so take care. Avoid using talc, body lotion or perfume near your prosthesis. It is advisable to keep your prosthesis in the box supplied when not being worn, as this will help to maintain its shape and prolong its life span. Wear a bra that fits you correctly. A bra that is too small may cause your prosthesis to deteriorate and become unwearable.

Wearing your prosthesis for leisure activities

Your new breast prosthesis is suitable for most hobbies and sporting activities. Swimming is a good form of exercise following breast surgery and, provided you wash your prosthesis to remove any chlorine, no damage should occur. There is a variety of leisure / swim prostheses available to buy. If you require a lightweight prosthesis for use during leisure activities, then please ask your prosthetic advisor for more information.

Adhesive breast forms are available, although they are not recommended for use immediately following surgery, chemotherapy or radiotherapy. Also, adhesive breast prostheses may be unsuitable for some women. Your prosthetic advisor will advise you further.

Pocketing service

We provide a pocketing service to women who wish to have a pocket sewn into their bra/s or swimwear. A small charge is made for this service. Payment can be made before pocketing, or when you collect your items. Payment can be made by cash or cheque (made payable to University Hospitals of Leicester). You will be contacted by telephone when your bras are ready for collection. Bras can be left and collected at the Breast Care Centre reception, unless postal return is requested, in which case a stamped addressed envelope will be required.

Who can I contact for further information?

The Breast Prosthesis Service is available from Monday to Friday, 9:00 am - 4:00pm . Our office telephone number is **0116 250 2511**—an answerphone service is available, messages will be listened to during our working hours.

Or you can email : breastprosthesis@uhl-tr.nhs.uk

اگر آپ کو یہ معلومات کسی اور زبان میں درکار ہیں، تو براہ کرم مندرجہ ذیل نمبر پر ٹیلی فون کریں۔
على هذه المعلومات بلغة أخرى، الرجاء الاتصال على رقم الهاتف الذي يظهر في الأسفل

જો તમને અન્ય ભાષામાં આ માહિતી જોઈતી હોય, તો નીચે આપેલ નંબર પર કૃપા કરી ટેલિફોન કરો

ਜੇ ਤੁਸੀਂ ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਕਿਸੇ ਹੋਰ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਵਿਚ ਚਾਹੁੰਦੇ ਹੋ, ਤਾਂ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਹੇਠਾਂ ਦਿੱਤੇ ਗਏ ਨੰਬਰ 'ਤੇ ਟੈਲੀਫੋਨ ਕਰੋ।

Aby uzyskać informacje w innym języku, proszę zadzwonić pod podany niżej numer telefonu

If you would like this information in another language or format such as EasyRead or Braille, please telephone 0116 250 2959 or email equality@uhl-tr.nhs.uk