

The Hand Rehabilitation Group

This information is for patients who have been invited to attend the hand rehabilitation group. We hope it answers some of the questions you may have about the group. If you have any further questions, please call the hand therapy team using the number given at the end of this leaflet.

What is the hand rehabilitation group?

The hand rehabilitation group provides people with a more intensive rehabilitation programme after they have sustained a hand or wrist injury. The group is made up of a maximum of six group members, with two therapists and a therapy technician who help facilitate the group. This is an opportunity for attendees to engage in a treatment-specific rehabilitation programme.

When should I attend?

You will be given the opportunity to attend the group for a block of six weeks.

Sessions take place on:

Mondays: 11am to 12.30pm (except bank holidays)
Thursdays: 1.30pm to 3pm

In order to optimise your rehabilitation and your recovery, you are required to attend both group sessions each week. Sessions are held in the hand therapy department on the ground floor of St James Wing.

What happens during the sessions?

You will follow an individualised programme that your therapist will have designed specifically for you based on your injury. This may include:

- stretches
- resistance exercises
- range of movement exercises
- gross motor activities
- fine motor activities
- functional activities (tasks aimed at meeting the demands of daily life).

Functional activities

Functional activities allow you to work on some of your treatment goals whilst performing a relevant task. For example using a rolling pin within a baking activity assists your range of movement by allowing you to use your wrist in a variety of positions. It also helps to build up strength in different muscles and builds your tolerance for putting weight through the hand/wrist.

Functional activities can also be of benefit in the re-learning or refining of your fine motor skills, as well as improving your endurance within tasks. Using both hands in tasks can also help you to detect differences in sensation, which can be particularly helpful if your injury has resulted in hypersensitivity or decreased sensitivity.

There are lots of examples of how different activities may benefit your rehabilitation. If you would like further examples, please feel free to discuss this within the group time or with your therapist.

What if I am late or cannot attend the session?

Your commitment to the group is essential to produce the best outcome for you. There are limited places, so it is expected that you attend every session.

You should still come to the session if you are late, however, you may not have sufficient time to complete all of the exercises within your programme and this may have an effect on your recovery.

If you cannot attend a session for any reason, **please notify the team as soon as possible**. If you do not let us know, we may need to offer your place in the group to someone else. Two consecutive sessions missed without notification will result in you being discharged from the group, as we will assume that you no longer need to attend.

If you are no longer able to attend any sessions, please give both of the group therapists notice and ensure that you attend a follow-up appointment with your primary therapist.

Contact us

If you have any questions or concerns or if you need to let the group therapists know that you cannot attend a session, please contact the hand therapy team on **020 8725 1038** (Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm).

For more information leaflets on conditions, procedures, treatments and services offered at our hospitals, please visit www.stgeorges.nhs.uk

Additional services

Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS)

PALS can offer you on-the-spot advice and information when you have comments or concerns about our services or the care you have received. You can visit the PALS office between 9.30am and 4.30pm, Monday to Friday in the main corridor between Grosvenor and Lanesborough Wing (near the lift foyer).

Tel: 020 8725 2453 **Email:** pals@stgeorges.nhs.uk

NHS Choices

NHS Choices provides online information and guidance on all aspects of health and healthcare, to help you make decisions about your health.

Web: www.nhs.uk

NHS 111

You can call 111 when you need medical help fast but it's not a 999 emergency. NHS 111 is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Calls are free from landlines and mobile phones.

Tel: 111

