Below knee caliper
An information guide
Below knee caliper

Introduction
This leaflet is produced for people who have been provided with a below knee caliper by the Orthotics service. It will explain how you should care for your caliper and other important information about the Orthotics service.

We hope you find this information useful. If you require further information or you are unable to attend an appointment, please telephone the Orthotics department where the appointment has been made for you as soon as possible:

Main Booking Office: 0161 778 3651
Bury: 0161 778 2847
North Manchester: 0161 720 2164
Oldham: 0161 627 8890
Rochdale: 01706 517055
What is a below knee caliper?
You have been supplied with a below knee caliper which is designed to control the ankle joint and foot when deformity and/or instability are present. The Orthotist has designed this device for your specific problem, so if you experience any changes in your limb or if you feel that the caliper provides inadequate control you must let the Orthotics department know as soon as possible.

What am I entitled to?
You are entitled to one below knee caliper (or pair if both legs are affected), you will only be given a second item or pair after inspection of your original caliper by the Orthotist and for the following reasons:

• if your original caliper is deemed to be clinically ineffective by the Orthotist
• if you are unable to function without it
• if your original caliper is beyond repair.

Theft, loss or damage to your caliper
If your caliper is stolen you will need to obtain a crime number from the police before we are able to order you a replacement. If your caliper is lost or damaged (either accidentally or maliciously) you will be asked to pay for its replacement. The average cost of a below knee caliper is £90.
How should I use the caliper?
• fit the spurs of the caliper into the socket in your shoe
• whilst seated on a bed or chair place your leg in the device ensuring your foot is comfortably in your shoe
• fasten all straps securely.

Are there any safety precautions I should take?
• ensure that spurs are correctly located in the sockets
• check that straps are secure and remain secure when standing
• regularly check your caliper for wear or damage.

How should I care for my caliper?
• spurs should be lubricated weekly with Vaseline to ensure they can move freely within the socket
• keep the caliper away from direct sources of heat or cold and never immerse in water
• any joints should be cleaned regularly using an old toothbrush or similar
• look after the caliper and return it for repair when necessary. You should never attempt to modify or adjust the caliper yourself.
What problems should I be aware of?
If you notice any of the following, please contact the Orthotics department as soon as possible.

• skin redness that doesn’t fade after 15 minutes
• sores or blisters on the skin.

Will the caliper affect footwear?
In order to accommodate the caliper, sockets and possibly leather straps will need to be added to your footwear.

Further appointments
Following the supply of your initial below knee caliper you will be reviewed at the discretion of the Orthotist. The follow-up procedure will also be explained to you. However, if you feel your condition has not improved, has worsened, or you are experiencing problems with your below knee caliper you can ask to see the Orthotist for a review appointment, by telephoning the Orthotics department where you had your original appointment.
If English is not your first language and you need help, please contact the Ethnic Health Team on 0161 627 8770

For general enquiries please contact the Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) on 0161 604 5897

For enquiries regarding clinic appointments, clinical care and treatment please contact 0161 624 0420 and the Switchboard Operator will put you through to the correct department / service

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